



# ARGENTINA HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE

Final



PRESS  
PACK

**Rosario,  
Argentina**

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# Introduction

A word from Leandro Negre,  
President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)

## Dear Hockey Media Representative,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2015 World Hockey League Final in Rosario, Argentina.

Congratulations to the eight women's teams who have won the right to play in this Final having performed consistently well throughout the Hockey World League.

The women's journey to the Final began 18 months ago. Since then, three rounds of the League have taken place in 12 locations all over the world. 51 countries have taken part, represented by nearly 1,000 players so far.

What makes the Hockey World League so special is that it highlights the inclusivity of hockey. Developing nations have had the opportunity to play against the top ranked hockey teams, while fans across the globe have been able to experience live world class hockey.

Throughout this competition, new stars have emerged and heroes made. I'm sure that the Argentina Hockey World League Final will provide many more exceptional contests with the world's best women's hockey players going head to head in Rosario.

I would like to thank Confederación Argentina de Hockey and all of its partners for the tremendous effort already gone in to hosting this event.

Our thanks must also go to all of the sponsors and the hundreds of volunteers who are crucial to making this competition a success.

I wish all of the athletes and officials the best of luck and hope that in addition to the hockey you all get to enjoy the rich culture and warm hospitality offered by this wonderful country.

Yours in hockey.

Leandro Negre  
FIH President





# About the Hockey World League

The Hockey World League is an action-packed competition which gives every hockey-playing nation a chance to go all the way to the Hockey World Cup and the Olympic Games.

Composed of four rounds and played over two years, the schedule alternately coincides with the build-up to the Hockey World Cup and the Olympics. Beyond a mere qualifier for those events, the Hockey World League shines a spotlight on the sport in all corners of the globe, producing exciting and elite level hockey while also providing a strong commercial opportunity for the sport.

Typified by its "Make Your Mark" slogan, the Hockey World League invites every hockey-playing nation to take part. It allows even the smallest ones to dream of writing their own chapter in hockey's history books. It builds heroes as fresh talent bursts onto the scene. Established nations feel the heat as rising superpowers threaten to install a new world order.



More information about the Hockey World League can be found on [www.fih.ch](http://www.fih.ch)



# Qualification for the Argentina Hockey World League Final

As shown by the below infographic, the eight teams taking part in the Argentina Hockey World League Final booked their tickets to Rosario by achieving top four finishes at the Semi-Final competitions in Valencia (ESP) and Antwerp (BEL) earlier this year.



Specific details about the results from the Semi-Final competitions can be found at the below links.

Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, Valencia (ESP) – [click here](#)

FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL) – [click here](#)



# Hockey World League and the Road to Rio

## Hockey World League & the Road to Rio

The Hockey World League has provided no fewer than half of the available qualification tickets to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. As well as offering a place in the prestigious Argentina Hockey World League Final event in Rosario, the Semi-Final events that took place in Valencia and Belgium earlier this year each offered three guaranteed places to next summer's Olympiad.

## So, who played in the HWL Semi-Finals and how did they get there?

In the women's HWL, seven qualifiers from Round 2 were joined by 11 of hockey's top nations, with the teams ranked from 1-11 at the time of seeking entries all entering the competition. The reason for seven rather than the nine qualifiers that featured in the men's competition was because both Spain and Belgium, two nations ranked between 12-19 at the time of seeking entries, were hosting Semi-Final tournaments and had therefore already qualified for those events.

The first of the Semi-Final tournaments took place in Valencia, Spain from 10-21 June. Canada, Ireland and Uruguay all achieved top two finishes in their respective Round 2 tournaments to earn a ticket to Valencia, where they took on host nation Spain and six pre-qualified teams: Argentina, China, Germany, Great Britain, South Africa and USA. Great Britain, China and Germany took the top three places to seal their tickets to Rio.

The second Semi-Final took place in the Belgian city of Antwerp as part of a spectacular joint men's and women's event from 21 June to 5 July. India, Italy and Poland – who all achieved top two finishes in Round 2 – were joined by France, who came into the competition as a late replacement for Azerbaijan. They faced Australia, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand and host nation Belgium in the race to claim a top three finish. The Netherlands, Korea and Australia finished in the top three positions and guaranteed that they would be appearing at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

## So what happened to the teams that finished outside of the top three?

While a podium finish in either of the HWL Semi-Final events absolutely guaranteed a ticket to Rio, the teams that finished in the 4-6 classification places were still left with a chance of qualifying following the completion of the Continental Championships early in November.

Quite simply, if a continental champion had already qualified by achieving a top three finish in the HWL Semi-Finals, then the next highest placed HWL team not already qualified, would qualify for Rio. So, every team came into the HWL Semi-Finals knowing that they needed to finish as high in the standings as possible in order to increase their chances of reaching Rio. In cases where teams were equally placed across the two Semi-Finals, FIH ranking at the end of the Semi-Final phase determined which team qualified. The confirmed qualifiers so far are as follows.

**Korea:** Asian Games champions (2nd place - FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp [BEL]).

**USA:** Pan Am champions (5th place - Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final [ESP]).

**Great Britain:** England became European champions (1st Place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final [ESP]).

**Australia:** Oceania champions (3rd place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp [BEL]).

**Netherlands:** 1st place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL).

**China:** 2nd place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final (ESP).

**Germany:** 3rd place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final (ESP).

**New Zealand:** 4th place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL).

Qualified as a result of Brazil's failure to secure a top seven position at the Pan Am Games Continental Championship (more information below).

**Argentina:** 4th place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final (ESP).

Qualified as Asian Games champions Korea finished 2nd in the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL).

**India:** 5th place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL).

Qualified as a result of England becoming European champions.

**Japan:** 6th place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp (BEL).

Qualified as a result of Australia becoming Oceania champions.

### So what about Brazil, the host nation?

Brazil's route to Rio 2016 was a special case, meaning that they could qualify for the Olympic Games if they satisfied the criteria established by the IOC and FIH. The criteria required Brazil's women to finish seventh or higher in July's Pan American Games and have a world ranking of 40th or above. However, they failed in their attempt to hit those targets, meaning that the Olympic ticket was handed to New Zealand, who were the next highest placed of the 4-6 finishers from the Hockey World League that had not already qualified for Rio.

### What is the situation regarding South Africa, the winners of the African Hockey Championship?

As Continental champions, South Africa have been invited to participate at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in accordance with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Rio 2016 Qualification System for the Olympic hockey events, approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

This system states that after the completion of the last continental championship, FIH will communicate in writing the confirmation of qualification to the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and National Association of each qualified team within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition. The NOCs will then have 14 days to confirm if they wish to use these quota places.

In this instance, the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee is responsible for accepting or declining the invitation. Should they decline the invitation, the invite will go to the next highest placed of the 4-6 finishers from the Hockey World League that has not already qualified for Rio. That team is Spain, who finished in sixth place at the HWL Semi-Final in Valencia. Confirmation of the teams qualified through the FIH Olympic Qualification System will be updated on the FIH website once official.

# HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE

RIO 2016 - Women's Olympic Games Qualification

## Semi-Finals

### Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final Spain

**Valencia**  
10-21 June 2015

1	Great Britain
2	China
3	Germany
4	Argentina
5	USA
6	Spain
7	South Africa
8	Ireland
9	Canada
10	Uruguay

**Top 3**  
Qualify automatically\*

**Teams 4-6**  
Chance to qualify post Continental Championships\*\*

### FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final

**Antwerp**  
20 June - 5 July 2015

1	Netherlands
2	Korea
3	Australia
4	New Zealand
5	India
6	Japan
7	Belgium
8	Italy
9	Poland
10	France

**Top 3**  
Qualify automatically\*

**Teams 4-6**  
Chance to qualify post Continental Championships\*\*

**RIO 2016 Olympic Games**

1	Korea
2	Great Britain
3	China
4	Germany
5	Netherlands
6	Australia
7	Argentina
8	New Zealand
9	USA
10	India
11	Japan
12	

**Continental Championships**  
5 Continental Champions qualify

- > Asian Games  
19 Sept – 4 Oct 2014
- > Pan Am Games  
10-26 July 2015
- > Euro Championships  
21-30 August 2015
- > Oceania Cup  
21-25 Oct 2015
- > Africa Cup for Nations  
24 Oct – 1 Nov 2015

**Host Nation\*\*\***

\* Korea qualified for the Olympics at the 2014 Asian Games – the Asian Continental Champions. Korea finished in the top three at Antwerp, meaning that highest-ranked fourth-placed team in either of the two Semi-Finals (Valencia or Antwerp) has qualified for the Olympics.

\*\* Chance to qualify: If the Continental Champion has already qualified by achieving a top three finish from either of the Semi-Finals then the next highest placed team from SF1 and SF2 qualifies. In cases where teams are equally placed, FIH ranking at the end of SF2 will determine which team qualifies. Argentina and New Zealand finished fourth in the HWL Semi-Final events, with Argentina being higher-ranked and therefore taking the ticket to Rio.

\*\*\* Host Nation – The Host Nation did not satisfy the criteria established by IOC and FIH. The qualification place went to the next highest ranked placed team at the HWL SF which was New Zealand.



# About Rosario

Confident and stylish, with a vibrant cultural scene and a lively nightlife, Rosario dominates the whole region. With a little over one million inhabitants, it is Argentina's third-biggest city – Córdoba just beats it for second place. However, Rosario likes to see itself as a worthy rival to Buenos Aires, 300km southeast – in some ways it is a far smaller version of the capital, but without the hordes of foreign visitors or the political clout. Geographically the comparison certainly holds: Rosario is a flattish riverside city and major port, lying at the heart of a vital agricultural region. Its cobbled streets lined with handsome buildings and leafy trees manage to be decadent and dynamic at the same time. Unlike Buenos Aires, however, whose back has until recently been firmly to the water, Rosario has always enjoyed a close relationship with the Río Paraná; the attractive riverfront area runs for 20km along the city's eastern edge, flanked by parks, bars and restaurants and, to the north, popular beaches. One of its main attractions is the splendidly unspoilt series of so-called "delta islands" with wide sandy beaches, just minutes away from the city by boat."

Rosario is famous for being the birthplace of the Argentine flag, 'Che' Guevara and numerous sporting icons including football ace Lionel Messi and legendary hockey star Luciana Aymar. Messi is a four times winner of FIFA's Ballon d'Or, while Aymar won eight FIH Player of the Year titles before ending a sensational career with Las Leonas at the end of 2014.



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## Useful links

Rosario tourism on WelcomeArgentina.com: [click here](#)

Rosario on Rough Guides: [click here](#)

Rosario on Wikipedia: [click here](#)

Rosario on FIH.CH: [click here](#)

### About the Estadio Mundialista de Hockey

The Estadio Mundialista de Hockey was built on the outskirts of Rosario ahead of the hugely successful women's BDO Hockey World Cup in 2010, where Argentina claimed the title in front of 12,000 passionate fans. The spectator stands used during the World Cup were temporary, although a permanent grandstand along one side of the pitch was constructed in the build up to the women's Argentina Champions Trophy in 2012. Combined with the use of additional mobile grandstands, the venue is capable of hosting 6,200 spectators.





# Competition format

The women's Argentina Hockey World League Final in Rosario will see eight top class international teams doing battle in a bid to claim the title and secure a ticket to the prestigious FIH Champions Trophy in 2016.

The event features two pools of four followed by quarter-finals, semi-finals, classification and medal matches. Pool A will feature reigning World and Olympic champions Netherlands (FIH World Ranking: 1) going into battle against New Zealand (WR: 4), Korea (WR: 8) and Germany (WR: 9), while Oceania champions Australia (WR: 2) will take on Argentina's Las Leonas (WR: 3), China (WR: 5) and Great Britain (WR: 6) in Pool B.

The round-robin pool phase will take place over three competition days between 5-8 December 2015. Following the round robin, the four teams will move into the crossover quarter-final phase, with the pool winners meeting the fourth-placed team from the opposite pool. The second and third placed finishers will also face-off in the knock-out quarter-final. The winners of the quarter-final matches will move into semi-finals and the medal games, with the losing teams playing for placement.

# The teams

You can find some general information about the teams below. At the time of writing, not all of the squad lists for the event had been confirmed. Complete and up-to-date squad lists for each competing team will be posted to the official website as soon as they become available. To see these, please click the following link:

<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/426#teams>

## Pool A – Netherlands, New Zealand, Korea, Germany

### Netherlands

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 1

**How they qualified:** 1st place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp.

**Notable honours:** 3x Olympic gold medallists (1984, 2008, 2012), Olympic silver medallists (2004), 3x Olympic bronze medallists (1988, 1996, 2000), 7x World champions (1974, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1990, 2006, 2014), Hockey World League champions (2012-14 Edition), 6x Champions Trophy winners (1987, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011), 8x European Champions (1984, 1987, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011).

**About the team:** Reigning Hockey World League champions Netherlands (FIH World Ranking: 1) have long been one of the dominant forces in world hockey, and in recent years have claimed the vast majority of the sport's biggest prizes.

They are the Olympic gold medallists from both the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Games, and last year proved themselves as the finest team on the planet by winning the Rabobank Hockey World Cup in front of their home fans in The Hague. Since that success, Oranje have claimed a bronze medal at the Argentina Champions Trophy (December 2014), a first place finish at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final in Antwerp (July 2015) as well as a silver medal at August's Unibet EuroHockey Championships in London (August 2015). The Netherlands have a vast array of attacking options to call upon, including Naomi van As, Eva de Goede, Lidewij Welten and 2014 FIH Player of the Year Ellen Hoog, while 2014 FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Joyce Soembroek is an ever-reliable presence. Even without rested duo Maartje Paumen and Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel, the Netherlands will be, as always, the team to beat in Rosario.

In October 2015, the Royal Dutch Hockey Association (KNHB) named legendary Australia international Alyson Annan as the new Head Coach of the Netherlands women. Annan – widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time and a central figure in the Hockeyroos team that won two Olympic gold medals and two World Cups between 1994 and 2000 – has moved into the position vacated by Sjoerd Marijne, who stepped away from the role following the Netherlands' shoot-out defeat to England in the final of the European championship in August. Double FIH Player of the Year Annan has been a long-time resident in the Netherlands and, since ending her playing career in 2003, has held numerous coaching roles. In 2004 she was Assistant Coach to Marc Lammer, who guided the Netherlands women to a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Athens. More recently, Annan has been coaching the Dutch junior women's team and Amsterdam H&BC men, the latter making her the first female Head Coach in the history of the top Dutch men's division.

**One to watch: Ellen Hoog.** This 29-year-old midfielder is a stand-out talent among a hugely gifted group of individuals. Hoog produced a series of exceptional performances to help her team lift the Rabobank Hockey World Cup on home soil in 2014, being named Player of the Tournament in the process. Later that year she was crowned FIH Player of the Year, joining an elite group of players that includes current Dutch internationals Maartje Paumen (2011, 2012) and Naomi van As (2009, jointly with Argentina's Luciana Aymar).

**KNHB website:** [www.knhb.nl](http://www.knhb.nl)

**Twitter:** @oranjehockey **Facebook:** oranjehockey **Instagram:** oranjehockey



## New Zealand

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 4

**How they qualified:** 4th place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp.

**Notable honours:** 3x Oceania Cup gold medallists (2007, 2009, 2011), 6x Oceania Cup silver medallists (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2013, 2015), FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2011), 2x FIH Champions Challenge gold medallists (2005, 2009), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2010), 2x Commonwealth Games bronze medallists (1998, 2014), 4th place at London 2012 Olympic Games.

**About the team:** Under the guidance of Head Coach and former Australian international Mark Hager, New Zealand's Black Sticks have enjoyed arguably the most successful period in their history. In 2011, the team claimed their first ever Champions Trophy medal when they took third place at the tournament in Amsterdam, and a year later narrowly missed out on an Olympic medal when they were beaten by Great Britain in the fight for bronze. Following a difficult 2013, the team achieved a hugely creditable fifth place finish at the Rabobank Hockey World Cup before claiming fourth place at the end of year Argentina Hockey Champions Trophy. This year, a fourth place finish at the FINTRO HWL Semi-Final and a silver medal at the Oceania Cup were slightly below expectations, but you can be sure that they will be a force to be reckoned with in Rosario. Hager has announced a strong side for the HWL Final with nine players having over 100 caps, three of which have surpassed the 200 international appearances marker - Emily Naylor (250+), Anita Punt (210+) and Gemma Flynn (210+). Punt and Flynn provide speed and goals, while New Zealand's most capped player Naylor (257 caps at the time of writing) brings a hard-nosed approach to the defensive line. 21-year-old goalkeeper Georgia Barnett has received the call-up and will be looking to make her mark ahead of Rio Olympic selection at the end of this year. Fellow goalkeeper Amelia Gibson has been ruled out with injury, former captain Kayla Whitelock is still building up her fitness but is on track to return to action next year, while striker Katie Glynn has retired from international hockey.

**One to watch: Mark Hager:** "We are very pleased with the team named, you only have to look at those unlucky players that have missed out to get a sense of the depth and high calibre of players in our wider group at the moment. Having the team here [in Auckland] has allowed us to work on our set pieces and structures, rather than having to work on those critical aspects of the game when we are away. Goal scoring is the key focus for us at the moment, we know we get the chances throughout a game and it's just practicing how we convert those."

**One to watch: Anita Punt.** With well over 200 international appearances to her name, lightning fast attacker Anita Punt is New Zealand's all-time top scorer and one of the most experienced members of the Black Sticks line-up. Her frightening turn of pace has been terrorizing defenders for years, and is also a regular scorer from penalty corner situations thanks to her impressive drag-flicking skills.

**Hockey New Zealand website:** [www.hockeynz.co.nz](http://www.hockeynz.co.nz)

**Twitter:** @BlackSticks **Facebook:** nzblacksticks **Instagram:** nzblacksticks

## Korea

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 8

**How they qualified:** 2nd place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp.

**Notable honours:** 2x Olympic silver medallists (1988, 1996), Hockey World Cup bronze medallists (1990), FIH Champions Trophy gold medallists (1989), FIH Champions Trophy silver medallists (1995), FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (1987), 2x FIH Champions Challenge silver medallists (2002, 2007), 5x Asian Games gold medallists (1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2014), 3x Asia Cup gold medallists (1985, 1993, 1999).



**About the team:** Korea are known for being one of the most well-organised international sides in world hockey, and on their day are capable of giving any team a run for their money. They were in excellent form at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final in Antwerp, finishing in second place behind reigning World and Olympic champions Netherlands, who needed a late strike from 2014 FIH Player of the Year Ellen Hoog to seal the win. Despite the defeat, the Korean players went away from the competition feeling justifiably proud of their performances, and know that if they can perform at the same level at the Argentina Hockey World League Final in Rosario, they could be in with a chance of taking the title. Following a difficult 2013 where the side were defeated in the final of the Asia Cup by Japan before recording a dismal eighth place finish at the end of year Argentina Hockey World League Final, Korea started 2014 in disarray but ended the year in high spirits. A shock fifth place finish at the Champions Challenge 1 event in Glasgow early in 2014 was a massive low for the proud Korean team, arriving at the event as favourites but failing to secure a place on the podium. A seventh place finish at the 2014 Rabobank Hockey World Cup proved to be both a turning point and ideal preparation for the 2014 Asian Games on home soil in Incheon. It turned out to be a fantastic tournament for the hosts, who defeated China in the competition final to claim a ticket to the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Although the Korea squad for Rosario had not been confirmed at the time of writing, Head Coach Han Jin Soo is expected to take a strong team to Argentina as they build towards Rio. Feared striker Park Mihyun and ace midfielder Kim Jongeun, the team captain, are usually the first names down on the team-sheet and are massively influential figures both on and off the field, as is regular goal-scorer Kim Darae. Goalkeeper Jang Soo Ji is another player to keep an eye on, having earned a reputation as a terrific shot-stopper who is something of an expert when it comes to shoot-outs. Jang conceded just two goals in two shoot-out competitions at the HWL Semi-Final in Antwerp, making crucial saves as her team defeated Belgium and New Zealand on route to the final.

**One to watch: Park Mihyun.** A live-wire striker with an extraordinary ability to create chances out of nothing.

The 29-year-old attacker has played over 200 times for her country and was named on the ten-strong shortlist for the 2013 FIH Player of the Year Award.

## Germany

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 9

**How they qualified:** 3rd place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, Valencia.

**Notable honours:** Olympic gold medallists (2004), 2x Olympic silver medallists (1984, 1992), 2x World Champions (1976, 1981), 2x European champions (2007, 2013), Champions Trophy gold medallists (2006).

**About the team:** 2013 European champions Germany – known as Die Danas – are always serious title contenders in every event in which they compete, something that will be no different in Rosario. The current group is young, exciting and blessed with a number of exceptionally talented individuals. Head Coach Jamilon Mülders has named a very strong squad for the Argentina Hockey World League Final in Rosario, including goal-scoring sensation Lisa Altenburg, the versatile Katharina Otte, as well as inspirational defender Julia Müller, who looks set to make a return to action after a year-long absence through injury, and the industrious Nina Hasselmann.

He also has two world class goalkeepers in Yvonne Frank and Kristina Reynolds. Frank is a shot-stopper extraordinaire,

while Reynolds has proven herself agile and a fabulous performer in a shoot-out scenario. Anne Schröder and Janne Müller-Weiland are always at the heart of the German team and will play their roles as key figures of the leadership group implemented by Head Coach Mülders, with Hannah Krüger and Franzisca Hauke – younger sister of Germany men's superstar Tobias Hauke – also being members.

The 2004 Olympic champions took the bronze medal at the Unibet EuroHockey Championship 2015 in London over the summer, and will be once again targeting a podium finish in Rosario as they build towards next year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**One to watch: Charlotte Stapenhorst.** This lively attacker had a sensational tournament at the EuroHockey Championships. The 20-year-old was a constant scourge to opposition defences and played with maturity beyond her years.

**Deutscher Hockey-Bund website:** [www.hockey.de](http://www.hockey.de)

**Twitter:** @diedanas **Facebook:** diedanas **Instagram:** diedanas

## Pool B – Australia, Argentina, China, Great Britain

### Australia

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 2

**How they qualified:** 3rd place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final, Antwerp.

**Notable honours:** 3x Olympic gold medallists (1988, 1996, 2000), 2x World champions (1994, 1998), 3x World Cup silver medallists (1990, 2006, 2014), Hockey World League silver medallists (2012-13 Edition), 6x FIH Champions Trophy gold medallists (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2003), 4x Oceania champions (1999, 2001, 2005, 2013, 2015), 4x Commonwealth Games gold medallists (1998, 2006, 2010, 2014), 4x Commonwealth Games gold medallists (1998, 2006, 2010, 2014).

**About the team:** Between 1994 and 2000, Australia (FIH World Ranking: 2) were by far and away the best team on the planet, claiming two Olympic gold medals and two World Cups as the team coached by Ric Charlesworth ruled the hockey world. Many years have passed since that time, but the momentum that the current group is gathering under Head Coach Adam Commens suggests that a new period of dominance may well be on the horizon.

Following their fifth place finish at the London 2012 Olympic Games, Australia's young guns have hit some seriously impressive form. Early signs of progress were seen in September 2012 when the team claimed the FIH Champions Challenge 1, a success which was quickly followed in 2013 by first place finishes at the Hockey World League Semi-Final (London) and Oceania Cup Continental Championship before claiming a silver medal at the Argentina Hockey World League Final in San Miguel de Tucumán. They took their sensational form into the Rabobank Hockey World Cup, where they finished as silver medallists behind host nation and world number one Netherlands. Since then, the team has won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games (Glasgow, Scotland), silver at the 2014 Argentina Champions Trophy, confirmed their place at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games by taking third at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final in Antwerp and also became Oceania champions. There is little doubt that this current Australia team is once again a major force in world hockey and is more than capable of claiming the Hockey World League title in Rosario.

The team will be led by inspirational captain and all time record caps holder Madonna Blyth, although there are plenty of



others who could make a big impact in Rosario. Defender, penalty corner expert and recently crowned Hockey Australia women's Player of the Year Jodie Kenny top scored at the HWL Semi-Final event in Antwerp with ten goals. Kenny is likely to play her 150th international match in Rosario, while Ashleigh Nelson, Georgia Nanscawen, Emily Smith and goalkeeper Rachel Lynch are also members of the 100 caps club.

**One to watch: Madonna Blyth.** Australia's team captain and star midfielder recently became the most capped Hockeyroo of all time, overtaking Nikki Hudson's 303-game record at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final in Antwerp earlier this year. Since making her senior international debut in 2004, Blyth has represented her country at two Olympics, earning a reputation as a fearless player who thrives on the big occasion.

**Hockey Australia website:** [www.hockey.org.au](http://www.hockey.org.au)

**Twitter:** @hockeyroos **Facebook:** thehockeyroos **Instagram:** hockeyaustraliaofficial

## Argentina

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 3

**How they qualified:** 4th place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, Valencia.

**Notable honours:** 2x World champions (2002, 2010), 2x Olympic silver medallists (2000, 2012), 2x Olympic bronze medallists (2004, 2008), 7x Champions Trophy winners (2001, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014), 6x Pan-American Games gold medallists (1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007), 4x Pan-American Cup winners (2001, 2004, 2009, 2013).

**About the team:** Alongside the Netherlands, Argentina have been the dominant force in women's hockey for well over a decade. "Las Leonas" (The Lionesses) have won five of the last six elite Champions Trophy tournaments and also claimed the bronze medal at the 2014 World Cup and silver at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Despite the retirement of iconic attacking midfielder and eight times FIH Player of the Year Luciana Aymar after the 2014 World Cup, there is no question that Argentina remain a true powerhouse of world hockey. Delfina Merino, Carla Rebecchi and drag-flicking defender Noel Barrionuevo are all potential match winners amongst the current group, while 2014 FIH Young Player of the Year Florencia Habif is rated as one of the most exciting emerging talents in the game. Santiago Capurro, who represented Argentina men at the Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, coaches the team.

Although the first women's teams were officially formed in 1909, it was the appointment of former men's international Sergio Vigil as Head Coach in 1997 that triggered a rapid rise to greatness. Under Vigil's leadership, Las Leonas achieved their first Hockey World Cup title, their first Olympic medals and their first Champions Trophy medals. The staggering success of the team has seen them achieve a level of fame normally reserved for their national football team, with some of the players hosting television shows and appearing in advertising campaigns for major brands. The achievements of Las Leonas has ensured that hockey is one of the most popular sports in the country, with the player and fan base continuing to grow at great speed. The team's reputation for being tenacious even in the face of defeat was the central factor for their now legendary nickname, with the lioness being chosen as their symbol shortly after the team achieved qualification for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

**One to watch: Carla Rebecchi.** A sensational attacker who can change the game in a blink of an eye, Rebecchi is one of the most experienced players in the Argentina line-up and is always influential.

**Confederación Argentina de Hockey website:** [www.cahockey.org.ar](http://www.cahockey.org.ar)

**Twitter:** @ArgFieldHockey **Facebook:** argfieldhockey **Instagram:** arg\_fieldhockey



## China

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 5

**How they qualified:** 2nd place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, Valencia.

**Notable honours:** Olympic silver medallists (2008), World Cup bronze medallists (2002), Champions Trophy gold medallists (2002), 2x Champions Trophy silver medallists (2003, 2006), Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2005), 3x Asian Games gold medallists (2002, 2006, 2010), 2x Asia Cup gold medallists (1989, 2009).

**About the team:** China have been in something of a transitional phase in recent years, but the current group is really starting to make some serious headway in their bid to restore the team to the performance levels achieved in 2008, when they claimed the silver medal at the Beijing Olympic Games. There is a clear focus on youth these days, with the vast majority of players that have featured in recent squads being aged 23 or under. 28-year-olds Xu Xiaoxu and Ma Wei were the oldest members of the squad that took part in the Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final in June, with the vast majority of the squad being aged between 19 and 23.

The relative youth of the team did not stop them from making big waves in Valencia, recording some excellent victories on their way to a hugely impressive second place finish behind Great Britain. Their best performance came in the competition semi-final meeting with Argentina, with penalty corner expert Wang Mengyu scoring twice to give China a 2-1 win over Las Leonas. Ace goalkeeper Li Dongxiao and lively attacker De Jiaojiao are also influential players for a China team that is growing in confidence with every tournament that they enter.

**One to watch:** **Wang Mengyu.** The 23-year-old defender is one of the most experienced campaigners in the China team, and is fast developing a reputation as a feared goal-scorer from penalty corner situations. Despite her tender age, Wang has played well over 100 internationals and already has Olympic, World Cup and Asian Games experience under her belt.

## Great Britain

**Current FIH World Ranking:** 6

**How they qualified:** 1st place – Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, Valencia.

**Notable honours:** 2x Olympic bronze medallists (1992, 2012), FIH Champions Trophy silver medallists (2012).

**About the team:** Following their bronze medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games, Great Britain will be aiming even higher at Rio 2016 and certainly have players capable of mixing it with the very best in the world. They were in excellent form at the Valencia Hockey World League Semi-Final, defeating China in the competition final to book their ticket to Rio. The vast majority of that squad went on to represent England at August's Unibet EuroHockey Championships in London, where they took the title thanks to the goalkeeping heroics of Maddie Hinch, whose brilliance in the shoot-out helped her team overcome world number one ranked Netherlands.

The recent return to winning ways followed a rough period for the England and Great Britain camp. They suffered a significant drop down the FIH World Rankings as a result of England's dismal 11th place finish at the Rabobank Hockey World Cup 2014, despite entering the competition ranked third. Shortly after the end of that event, England Head Coach Jason Lee made the decision to step away from the squad and was replaced on an interim basis by Danny Kerry, the team's former Head Coach and current Performance Director for England & Great Britain Hockey.



Kerry's impact was immediate, guiding the England team to a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland before achieving a fifth place finish at the Argentina Hockey Champions Trophy at the end of the year. Since then, Kerry has been confirmed as the Head Coach for the England and Great Britain Women's Hockey programme through to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, and will be determined to see his team maximize their potential over the next 12 months. As well as the respective talents of ace shot-stopper Hinch and ever-dangerous goal-scorer Alex Danson, there are plenty of other top quality internationals currently representing Great Britain. 2013 FIH Young Player of the Year nominee Lily Owsley is also worth keeping an eye on thanks to her speed and incredible skills, while veteran stars Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh bring masses of world level experience to the fold.

Another hugely experienced player named in Kerry's squad is powerhouse defender and penalty corner expert Crista Cullen, who stepped away from hockey after winning bronze at the 2012 Olympics but made a return to the Great Britain training squad in October 2015. The Argentina Hockey World League Final will be her first competition since her return.

**One to watch: Alex Danson.** One of the most feared strikers in the game, Danson is a defender's nightmare: quick, skillful and absolutely lethal in front of goal. Named on the shortlist for the FIH Player of the Year for 2013.

**Great Britain Hockey website:** [www.greatbritainhockey.co.uk](http://www.greatbritainhockey.co.uk)

**Twitter:** @\_GBHockey



# Match schedule

To see the official match schedule, please click the following link:

<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/426#matches>

# Overview of Women's Hockey World League 2014-15

A summary of the 2014-15 edition of the Women's Hockey World League can be found below. For extended details on these events, you can find a list of links to each individual tournament in the right hand column.

## Round 1

Name	Dates	Location	Teams	Links
HWL R1 Suva 2014	Dec 6-13 2014	Suva (FIJ)	Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Kingston 2014	Sep 30-Oct 5 2014	Kingston (JAM)	Trinidad & Tobago, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Puerto Rico, Jamaica	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Guadalajara 2014 (W)	Sep 11-14 2014	Guadalajara (MEX)	Canada, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Nairobi 2014	Sep 5-7 2014	Nairobi (KEN)	Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Hradec Kralove 2014	Sep 5-7 2014	Hradec Kralove, (CZE)	France, Austria, Czech Republic, Turkey	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Siauliai 2014	Jun 27-29 2014	Siauliai (LTU)	Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R1 Singapore 2014	Jun 21-26 2014	Singapore (SIN)	Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Myanmar	<a href="#">Event page</a>



# Overview of Women's Hockey World League 2014-15

## Round 2

Name	Dates	Location	Teams	Links
HWL R2 Dublin 2015	Mar 14-22 2015	Dublin (IRL)	Ireland, Canada, Chile, Belarus, Austria, Lithuania, Ukraine, Turkey	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R2 New Delhi 2015	Mar 7-15 2015	New Delhi (IND)	India, Poland, Malaysia, Thailand, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ghana, Singapore	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL R2 Montevideo 2015	Feb 14-22 2015	Montevideo (URU)	Italy, Uruguay, Azerbaijan, Mexico, France, Trinidad & Tobago, Dominican Republic, Kenya	<a href="#">Event page</a>

# Overview of Women's Hockey World League 2014-15

## Semi-Finals

Name	Dates	Location	Teams	Links
HWL Semi-Final Antwerp 2015	Jun 20-Jul 5 2015	Antwerp (BEL)	Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Belgium, India, Italy, Azerbaijan, Poland	<a href="#">Event page</a>
HWL Semi-Final Valencia 2015	Jun 10-21 2015	Valencia (ESP)	Argentina, USA, China, Germany, Great Britain, South Africa, Ireland, Spain, Canada, Uruguay	<a href="#">Event page</a>

## Final

Name	Dates	Location	Teams	Links
HWL Final Rosario 2015	Dec 5-13 2015	Rosario (ARG)	Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, China, Great Britain, Korea, Germany	<a href="#">Event page</a>

# Photography

**In event photography** Getty Images will be capturing imagery from all of the matches being played at the Argentina Hockey World League Final in Rosario.

Subscribers to Getty's services will be able to download their images as part of their service. To subscribe to Getty Images, visit [gettyimages.com](http://gettyimages.com) and follow the registration process.

## FIH National Associations and Continental Federations

Getty will be providing FIH National Associations and Continental Federations with a selection of images after each game. To access these photos free of charge, please email [media@fih.ch](mailto:media@fih.ch) and in the email subject, state: FIH Image Usage

## FIH Images USAGE

FIH National Associations and Continental Federations can use images for their own below the line marketing and promotional purposes to include marketing collateral and digital channels (for example website and social media). Under no circumstances should they be used for commercial purposes. Detailed information about image usage will be provided upon receipt of registration email as detailed above.

Alex Danson - GBR  
FIH - Stanislas Brochier



Anita Punt - NZL  
FIH - Frank Uijlenbroek



Carla Rebecchi - ARG  
FIH - Stanislas Brochier



Charlotte Stapenhorst - GER  
FIH - Stanislas Brochier



Ellen Hoog - NED  
FIH - Frank Uijlenbroek



Madonna Blyth - AUS  
FIH - Grant Treeby



Park Mihyun - KOR  
FIH - Frank Uijlenbroek



Wang Mengyu (#2) - CHN  
FIH - Stanislas Brochier



To download any of these images please visit the following link: [www.know-how-ltd.co.uk/clients/fih/hwlfarg.html](http://www.know-how-ltd.co.uk/clients/fih/hwlfarg.html)

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# Following the Event

## Official tournament information

We will be providing full coverage of the event via FIH.CH, including reports, news stories, event imagery and much more. Raw competition data including starting line-ups, live scores, pool standings and top scorers can be found at the link below:  
<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/426>

## Television

Numerous broadcasters will be showing the action from Rosario. To find out which broadcasters will be showing which games, visit: <http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/hockey-world-league-final-rosario-2015-w/tv>

## Live Streaming

Live streaming of the matches will be available in most territories via the FIH YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/fihockey>

In addition to live streaming, the FIH YouTube channel will be extremely active during the event, with match highlights and much more being posted as soon as they become available.

## Social media

The FIH will provide comprehensive coverage of the event via our social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Facebook: [facebook.com/fihockey](https://facebook.com/fihockey)

Instagram: [instagram.com/fihockey](https://instagram.com/fihockey)

Twitter: [twitter.com/fih\\_hockey](https://twitter.com/fih_hockey)

Hashtags: [#HWL2015](#) [#MakeYourMark](#)

# Rules & Tournament Regulations

## Players

A team is made up of a maximum 18 players, composed of 11 players on the field and up to seven substitutes. If a team has only one goalkeeper, they play a match with a maximum of 16 players.

## Substitutions

There are no limits on the number of substitutions, apart from during a penalty corner or video referral when substitutions are not allowed.

## Match periods

For the 2014 Champions Trophies, Hockey World League Round 2 2015, Hockey World League Semi-Final 2015, Hockey World League Final 2015 all Continental Qualifying Events for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games, matches consist of four periods of 15 minutes.

## Green & yellow cards

If a player is shown a green card by the umpire, he or she has a temporary suspension lasting two minutes. This means the team plays with one fewer player during this period. The time penalty kicks in when the suspended player sits on a chair next to the technical table. After the two minutes are up, the player can return to the pitch. If a player is shown a yellow card, the suspension shall be a minimum of five minutes. The Technical Officer on duty is responsible for timing the temporary suspension. Once the suspension is over, the player (or a substitute) can return to the pitch unless this occurs during the taking of a penalty corner, in which case the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.

## Playing the ball above shoulder height

A player may play the ball above shoulder height with his or her stick provided this is not dangerous or leads to dangerous play. This rule applies to the entire pitch, including inside the circle.

## Penalty corner countdown clock

When a penalty corner is awarded, time is stopped for 40 seconds, except in the case of re-awards or penalty corners awarded after a Video Umpire referral. In the case of a re-awarded penalty corner time will be immediately stopped but the teams will not be allowed an additional 40 seconds. The umpire will re-start play at the earliest possible opportunity, ensuring that any delay is kept to a minimum. Matches are also stopped for 40 seconds after a goal is scored, except in the case of goals awarded after a Video Umpire Referral and a Penalty Stroke.

## Video umpire

Each team is allowed one video umpire team referral per match. Team referrals are restricted to decisions within the 23 meter areas relating to the award (or non-award) of goals, penalty strokes and penalty corners. The on pitch umpires will ask the video umpire to study the relevant images and for his or her advice and recommendation. If the referral is



# Rules & Tournament Regulations

successful, the team retains the right to make another team referral. If the referral is unsuccessful, the team loses the right to use the video umpire for the rest of the game.

The umpires may also consult the video umpire, using their own umpire referral, if they have doubts about whether or not to award a goal.

If a classification match ends in a draw a shoot-out competition will take place to determine the winner. In the shoot-out competition each team has the right to a team referral for the award (or non-award) of goals, penalty strokes and whether a shoot-out should be re-taken or not. Referrals remaining at the end of normal time are not carried over into the shoot-out competition.

## Shoot-outs

During the classification phase, a shoot-out competition will be used if the scores are equal at full time. Each team picks five players who will each take one shoot-out. If the teams are drawn after a series of shoot-outs, the winner will be decided by sudden death, ie when one team has scored one more goal than the opposing team after an equal number of shoot-outs. The process will be repeated in series of five shoot-outs for each team until a winner has been decided.

More information on the current rules of hockey and tournament regulations can be found at the below links:

Rules of Hockey 2015: [Click here](#)

Tournament Regulations (November 2015): [Click here](#)

# Tournament Officials

Appointment	Name	Country	Appointed By
FIH Representative	CRAIG-ROUSSEAU Maureen	FIH	FIH
TD	PETITJEAN Sylvie	FRA	FIH
Technical Officer	PIGRETTI Laura	ARG	FIH
Judge	AKII-BUA Natak	TTO	FIH
Judge	SHIN Jung Hee	KOR	FIH
Judge	TAKEDA Alicia	MEX	FIH
Medical Officer	CONSTANTINOU Demetri (Dr)	RSA	FIH
Umpires Manager	DE KLERK Marelize	RSA	FIH
Umpires Manager	WOOLLEY Minka	AUS	FIH
Umpire	BLOCK Frances	ENG	FIH
Umpire	GIDDENS Maggie	USA	FIH
Umpire	IPARRAGUIRRE Soledad	ARG	FIH
Umpire	JOUBERT Michelle	RSA	FIH
Umpire	KIM Jung Hee	KOR	FIH
Umpire	McCLEAN Ayanna	TTO	FIH
Umpire	MEISTER Michelle	GER	FIH
Umpire	MIAO Lin	CHN	FIH
Umpire	UNKA Aleesha	NZL	FIH
Umpire	YAMADA Emi	JPN	FIH
Video Umpire	METCHETTE Carol	IRL	FIH
Video Umpire	ROACH Lisa	AUS	FIH
FIH Event Director	ATKINSON Hilary	FIH	FIH
FIH Event Operations Manager	HARIK Sandra	FIH	FIH
FIH Sport Operations Manager	GALLIVAN Martyn	FIH	FIH
FIH Communications Manager	PARKER Danny	FIH	FIH
FIH Media Operations Manager	JUGGINS Sarah	FIH	FIH
FIH Media Officer	SYMMONS Nikki	FIH	FIH

**Note:** All officials correct at time of publication. Any updates will be posted to the following link:  
<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/426#officials>

# FIH World Rankings

## Top 20

Rank	Country	Points
1	Netherlands	2128
2	Australia	1963
3	Argentina	1883
4	New Zealand	1690
5	China	1598
6	England (Great Britain)	1589
7	USA	1585
8	Korea	1534
9	Germany	1453
10	Japan	1260
11	South Africa	1166
12	Belgium	1099
13	India	1084
14	Spain	969
15	Ireland	790
16	Italy	753
17	Scotland	683
18	Belarus	569
19	Canada	568
20	Malaysia	550

**Notes:** The complete FIH World Rankings are available at the following link: <http://www.fih.ch/rankings/outdoor/>



# Statistics

In-event statistics including pool standings, scorers and disciplinary cards will be available via the following link:  
[www.tms.fih.ch/competitions/426](http://www.tms.fih.ch/competitions/426) In the “Matches” section, you can also find a selection of Head to Head results by clicking on the match in question followed by the Head to Head tab.

Statistics relating to men’s hockey teams and athletes participating in the Hero Hockey World League Final in Raipur, India from 2014 and 2015 can be downloaded using the link below.

These include head to head records, quarter analysis, first goal impact analysis and participating team analysis.



To download this file please visit the following link:  
[www.know-how-ltd.co.uk/clients/fih/hwlfarg.html](http://www.know-how-ltd.co.uk/clients/fih/hwlfarg.html)

The best way to view the statistics is by using Microsoft Excel, however if you don’t have the relevant software you can view them in one of the following ways:

## PC

Download and install ‘Excel Viewer’ at the following link:  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/download/details.aspx?id=10>

## MAC

Use ‘Numbers’ which is a default OSX application

## BOTH

If you have an Outlook or Hotmail account you can copy the file into ‘Skydrive’ and use Microsoft’s online application to view the file.