



**FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup
Poland 2023/24**

Media Kit



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For all media queries relating to the event, please contact media@fih.hockey

ABOUT THE EVENT

Event title FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2023/24
When 31 May - 9 June 2024
Where Hockey Stadium, Gniezno, Poland

TEAMS

Pool A Austria, Korea, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa
Pool B Canada, France, Malaysia, Pakistan

EVENT WEBSITE

nationscup.hockey

BROADCAST AND LIVE STREAMING

All matches from the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2023-24 will be streamed live (and available on-demand) on the [Watch.Hockey](#)* app.

*except on the Indian subcontinent.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

HASHTAG

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President's Message

Dear Hockey Family,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2023/24.

The Nations Cup is a top-flight tournament created by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in 2022 for the best teams in the world, ranked just underneath the current Pro League nations. Each edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup runs in parallel with the FIH Hockey Pro League season, introducing a promotion/relegation axis to the Pro League - 'Hockey at its best'.



The inaugural edition in Potchefstroom, South Africa and Valencia, Spain were spectacular hockey events which saw Ireland men and India women gain promotion to the current edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League. The second edition, which will be played in Gniezno, Poland (men) and Terrassa, Spain (women), will bring back the same breathtaking action which is bound to thrill the global hockey fans.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Polish Hockey Association for organising this event with so much passion and dedication. I'd also like to thank all participating National Associations, athletes, officials, our commercial and broadcast partners, our preferred suppliers, the volunteers, the media and the fans, and I wish the very best of luck to all participating teams!

Whether you will follow the matches via broadcast, on Watch.Hockey, on social media or in the news, I wish you to enjoy all the action from this thrilling first edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup!

Yours in Hockey,

Tayyab Ikram
FIH President



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ABOUT G涅ZNO AND THE HOCKEY STADIUM

G涅ZNO

Gniezno, nestled in the heart of Poland, is a city that carries with it a rich and storied history. Once considered the original capital of Poland, it's a significant heritage site that provides a glimpse into the kingdom's early history. This picturesque city is renowned for its beautiful architecture, with its streets lined with striking examples of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles.

A defining feature of Gniezno is the well-known Gniezno Cathedral - a Gothic structure of fascinating history and religious significance. It is believed to house the tomb of St. Adalbert, a martyr and patron saint of Poland. Each year, it attracts numerous pilgrims and history enthusiasts from around the globe.

In addition to its historical allure, Gniezno boasts a vibrant cultural scene, offering a range of local events and festivals that celebrate the arts, music, and traditional Polish culture. Furthermore, it's known for its inviting local cuisine, charming parks, and warm, friendly residents, making it a truly inviting destination for tourists and locals alike.

Overall, Gniezno represents a unique intersection of history, culture, and everyday Polish life, offering a captivating insight into the nation's past while maintaining the charm and vitality of modern-day urban life.

USEFUL LINKS

Gniezno on Trip Advisor: [click here](#)

Gniezno on Wikipedia: [click here](#)

HOCKEY STADIUM

The stadium was built in April 1999. It is located in the Tysiąclecia District. The capacity of the facility is 1000 seats. The patron of the stadium is Alfons Flinik, a Gniezno field hockey player, a two-time Olympian, and a 14-time Polish champion. Currently, the stadium is used by KS Stella Gniezno and UKH Start 1954 Gniezno.



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ABOUT THE FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup is an annual tournament that involves some of the best hockey playing nations of the world and acts as a pathway to the FIH Hockey Pro League, with the first placed team in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup getting the opportunity to replace the bottom placed team in the FIH Hockey Pro League in the subsequent year.

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup features the best eight teams* (by world rankings) that are not a part of the FIH Hockey Pro League, in both men's and women's competitions. The eight teams are split into two pools of four teams each, with the top two teams in each pool proceeding to the semi-finals, while the bottom two teams from each pool will play for 5-8 place classification.

*Since, on the basis of the FIH World Rankings, the Polish team had not qualified for this FIH Hockey Nations Cup, the tournament will exceptionally be played with 9 teams.

The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup will run from 31 May to 9 June 2024 in Gniezno, Poland, whilst the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup will start on 3 June and finish also on 9 June in Terrassa, Spain.

The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2024 match schedule, including match timings is [available here](#).

For more information on the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup, please visit the website [here](#).

More information about the FIH Hockey Pro League can be found [here](#).



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COMPETITION FORMULA

31 MAY - 9 JUNE

POOLS DISTRIBUTION

Pools allocated according to the snake system based on the World Ranking of 31 January 2023

Winner of Nations Cup will be promoted to FIH Pro League Season 6

POOL A

KOREA
NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH AFRICA
AUSTRIA
POLAND

POOL B

MALAYSIA
FRANCE
PAKISTAN
CANADA

STAGE 1 - POOL STAGE

GNIEZNO 31 MAY - 6 JUNE

OPENING MATCH ON 31 MAY

9 TEAMS, 2 POOLS OF 4 TEAMS AND THE OTHER ONE WITH 5 TEAMS, 16 MATCHES IN TOTAL
1st & 2nd RANKED TEAM OF EACH POOL ADVANCES TO THE SEMI-FINALS
3rd AND 4th RANKED TEAM OF EACH POOL ADVANCES TO CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th to 8th
5th RANKED TEAM OF POOL A IS ELIMINATED FROM THE COMPETITION

STAGE 2 - SEMI-FINALS & CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-8th

GNIEZNO 8 JUNE

CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-8th

MATCH I

3rd POOL A

4th POOL B

MATCH II

3rd POOL B

4th POOL A

SEMI-FINALS

MATCH III

1st POOL A

2nd POOL B

MATCH IV

1st POOL B

2nd POOL A

STAGE 3 - FINAL, BRONZE, CLASSIFICATION MATCHES 5th-6th & 7th-8th

GNIEZNO 9 JUNE

CLASSIFICATION MATCH 7th-8th

LOSER MATCH I

LOSER MATCH II

CLASSIFICATION MATCH 5th-6th

WINNER MATCH I

WINNER MATCH II

BRONZE

LOSER MATCH III

LOSER MATCH IV

FINAL

WINNER MATCH III

WINNERMATCH IV



TEAMS

Below you will find some general information as well as the squad lists for the teams that will compete in each pool at the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Gniezno 2023/24. All squad information correct at time of publication. To see complete and up-to-date squad lists for each team competing in Gniezno, please [click here](#).

Pool A

Austria
Korea
New Zealand
Poland
South Africa



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Austria

Nickname: Red Capricorns

Current World Ranking: 20

Notable honours: FIH Indoor World Cup gold medallists (2018, 2023), 7th place – Olympic Games (1952), 7th place – EuroHockey Championships (2009, 2017, 2023).

Nations Cup 2022/23: N/A

About: In a fiercely competitive environment in Europe, Austria are a team on the rise as evidenced by their enthralling performances at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Valencia. The Austrians come into the event as the lowest ranked team outside of hosts Poland, but opponents will not be taking their threat lightly, given the composed and confident hockey the Central European side have been playing recently.



At the Olympic Qualifiers in Valencia earlier this year, Austria finished in 6th place and impressed the crowds with their brand of hockey. Despite their relative lack of experience on the world stage, Austria were competent in every single match, including the ones against Spain and Korea, who are positioned well above them on the world rankings table.

With more than half their squad under the age of 25, Austria are on track to get consistently better as their team plays more and more international hockey together, and the FIH Hockey Nations Cup will provide them the perfect platform to further build on their impressive performances in the Olympic Qualifiers.

One to watch: Josef Winkler

At just 20, Josef Winkler already has the makings of a star forward for Austria. Winkler made his debut for Austria less than 2 years ago but looked at home against some of the best teams in the world during the Olympic Qualifiers, getting on the scoresheet against Spain and Egypt. While his finishing will continue to improve as he plays more matches at the top level, Winkler's ability to move with and without the ball is already world class and Austria will need him to be at his best, if they want to achieve their goal of winning the tournament and qualify for the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25.

Korea

Current World Ranking: 11

Notable honours: Olympic silver medallists (2000), 4x Asian Games gold medallists (1986, 1994, 2002, 2006), Asia Cup gold medallists (1994, 1999, 2009, 2013, 2022), 4th place – FIH Men’s World Cup (2002, 2006). FIH Champions Trophy silver medallists (1999). FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2000, 2009), FIH Hockey Nations Cup bronze medallists (2022)



Nations Cup 2022/23: 3rd

About: Korea have been amongst the best performing teams in Asia over the past two decades with a long list of honours, including an Olympic silver medal, four Asian Games gold medals, five gold medals at the Asia Cup, and a gold medal at the Asian Champions Trophy in 2021.

While Korean performances have been a bit up and down over the past couple of years, compared to their own high standards, they are hitting reset at the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup 2023/24. 13 players from their 18-member squad headed to Gniezno have played less than 10 international hockey matches, including 3 debutants. Only 2 players in the squad will come into the event with over 100 caps, in Kim Hyeongjin (105 caps) and star goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim (204 caps).

The Nations Cup will give the young Korean team a great opportunity to test their mettle against some of the best teams in the world, after missing out on Olympic Qualification. With the next major competition, the FIH Hockey Men’s World Cup 2026 more than 2 years away, Korea can use the Nations Cup, and a possible qualification to the FIH Hockey Pro League to build their chemistry up and develop a new side that can help them become perennial contenders in international men’s hockey.

One to watch: Jaehyeon Kim

Jaehyeon Kim is an important cog in the Korean wheel, and his excellent shootout record is something opponents will be wary of, in the latter stages of the tournament. He was also the standout defensive player in the inaugural edition, where Korea recorded the stingiest defence, conceding just 4 goals in 5 games. With 204 caps, Kim has more international experience than the rest of his team combined and will be tasked with leading the young Korean team from the back in this upcoming edition of the FIH Hockey Men’s Nations Cup.

New Zealand

Nickname: The Black Sticks

Current World Ranking: 10

Notable honours: Olympic gold medallists (1976), Hockey World League silver medallists (2012-14 edition), Champions Challenge gold medallists (2009), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2002, 2018), 12x Oceania Cup silver medallists (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023), 2x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup winners (2012, 2015), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup gold medallists (2012, 2015)



Nations Cup 2022/23: N/A

About: The Black Sticks are always a force to be reckoned with, being blessed with some genuinely world class players amongst their ranks. Blair Tarrant is a fine defender who has represented his country more than 230 times, while the likes of veteran striker Simon Child, Sam Lane, and penalty corner weapon Kane Russell are all goal threats.

New Zealand were relegated from the FIH Hockey Pro League last season, having finished in the bottom place, but were limited by key experienced players like Sam Lane, Kane Russell, Simon Child, Dane Lett, Jake Smith, Hayden Phillips and Hugo Inglis missing major chunks of the season. The Black Sticks put the disappointment behind them quickly, by bouncing back in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers where they won the bronze medal and qualified for Paris 2024 and will be hoping to end their stay outside the Pro League as short as possible by winning the Nations Cup.

One to watch: Hugo Inglis

At 31, Hugo Inglis is perfectly placed to bridge the gap between the new generation of New Zealand players and the senior most members of the squad. With 254 caps and 127 goals, Inglis is a major contributor to the team in attack, and his value was apparent when New Zealand were relegated from the Pro League while Inglis missed the entire season. He was back in the squad at the Olympic Qualifiers and chipped in with the crucial equaliser against Pakistan in the final quarter of the bronze medal match, which gave them the platform to go ahead and qualify for Paris 2024.



Poland

Current World Ranking: 28

Notable honours: FIH Indoor World Cup silver medalist: 2003, 2007, 2011, EuroHockey Indoor Championship 2nd place - 1999, 2006, 2024, 3rd place - 2001, FIH Hockey5s World Cup - 4th place - 2024

Nations Cup 2022/23: N/A

About: The coach of the Polish national team is former star player Dariusz Rachwalski, under whose leadership the team has shown steady progress. Poland triumphed in last year's EuroHockey Championship III in Skierniewice.

The Polish squad has had a successful winter, winning silver at the Indoor European Championships in Leuven, Belgium. Will their excellent form in indoor hockey and performances in hockey5s translate into success in the traditional format?

Historically, Poland's greatest achievements at the World Championships are 8th-place finishes in 1982 and 1986. Additionally, the Polish team placed 6th at the Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952.

One to watch: Jacek Kurowski

Born in 1998, a native of Gniezno and the captain of the Polish national team, Jacek Kurowski has scored 13 goals in 63 appearances for the team on open fields. Currently, he plays for TSV Mannheim. Alongside the national team, he won silver at the EuroHockey Indoor Championship in Leuven and bronze at the EuroHockey 5s Championship



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South Africa

Current World Ranking: 14

Notable honours: 8x Africa Cup of Nations gold medallists (1993, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2022), 2x All-Africa Games gold medallists (1995, 1999), 5x African Olympic Qualifier champions (2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023), 10th Place – Hockey World Cup (2010), 10th Place – Olympic Games (1996, 2004). FIH Champions Challenge silver medallists (2001), FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup champions (2022).



Nations Cup 2022/23: 1st

About: South Africa scripted a fairytale victory in the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup in 2022 at home and are therefore back in the Nations Cup as reigning champions, hoping to win it again!

South Africa are an immensely talented side with the likes of Daayan Cassiem, Mustaphaa Cassiem, Ryan Julius and Connor Beauchamp all playing starring roles in the team, before hitting their prime. Supporting them ably are long term cornerstones of the team, Jethro Eustice, Keenan Horne and Gowan Jones, still performing at their peak powers.

If South Africa hit their peak as they did in the previous edition of the Nations Cup, they will be early favourites to win the Nations Cup. But with stiff competition coming from all around the world, nothing is a given in this top-tier tournament.

One to watch: Mustaphaa Cassiem

At just 21, Mustaphaa Cassiem is amongst the best players in the world already, and seems to get better with each outing. Cassiem's versatility is what separates him from his peers, as he easily fits into the defence and midfield, based on what his team needs, and is handy from set pieces as well, scoring 22 goals in his 48 international appearances so far. Mustaphaa was awarded the young player of the tournament at the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup in 2023, and his current trajectory has him destined to win many more awards at the senior level.



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Pool B

- Canada
- France
- Malaysia
- Pakistan



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Canada

Nickname: The Red Caribou

Current World Ranking: 19

Notable honours: 4x Pan American Games gold medallists (1983, 1987, 1999, 2007), Pan American Cup gold medallists (2009), FIH Champions Challenge 1 silver medallists (2014).

Nations Cup 2022/23: 8th

About: Canada are the lowest ranked team in Pool B, behind France, Malaysia and Pakistan. At the previous edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup, they finished in the last position, but have since seen an improvement in their form, as a new generation comes to the fore.

Canada performed admirably at the recently concluded FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Oman. Even though they missed out on an Olympic berth, they nearly maximised the positional playoffs, first getting the better of China, before drawing 0-0 against higher ranked Malaysia. The shoot-out loss to Malaysia saw them finish in 6th place, but there were plenty of promising signs for Canada to carry over to the upcoming Nations Cup.

One to watch: Gordon Johnston

Gordon Johnston was the top goal scorer at the 2022 Pan Am Cup with 10 goals in 6 games, before missing out for an extended period with injury. Johnston is an ace drag flicker and he was back amongst the goals in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers. With high scoring opponents in Pakistan, Malaysia and France, Canada will need to rely on a steady defence, while also making sure to score enough to get out of the group stage, and Johnston will be a key factor in both those aspects of their game.





France

Nickname: Les Bleus

Current World Ranking: 9

Notable honours: 4th place – Olympic Games (1920, 1928, 1936), 7th place – FIH Men's World Cup (1971, 1990), 8th place – FIH Men's World Cup (2018), 6th place – FIH Champions Trophy (1992), 4th place – EuroHockey Nations Championship (1970)

Nations Cup 2022/23: 5th

About: In 2018, France arrived in Bhubaneswar for their first FIH Men's World Cup for 28 years, with their last appearance coming at 1990 competition in Lahore, Pakistan, where they finished seventh. Having been drawn in the same pool as Rio 2016 Olympic champions Argentina, Spain, and New Zealand, many expected them to be on the first plane out of India. However, France put the hockey world on notice by progressing from the group and making it to the quarterfinals.

Since then, France – who are building towards the Olympic Games Paris 2024, where they will compete as hosts – have been going from strength to strength and come into the Nations Cup as the highest ranked team in the competition. A fifth-place finish in the previous edition of the Nations Cup event was below expectations, but France are well positioned to make a strong charge towards the top spot this time around and return to the FIH Hockey Pro League, where they played in the third season, in place of Australia, who had to withdraw due to the pandemic related travel restrictions.

One to watch: Victor Charlet

Victor Charlet is at the heart of everything France does and leads the team from the front as their captain as well. He plays the role of deep defender, offering the last line of protection to the defence ahead of the goalkeeper, while also taking the responsibility of launching counter-attacks after winning possession. All this already makes him stand out as a player of the team, but on top of all that, he also is the team's most prolific goal scorer from the penalty corners, with his powerful drag flicks that often hit the net with scorching force.





Malaysia

Nickname: Speedy Tigers

Current World Ranking: 13

Notable honours: 8th Place – Olympic Games (1972), 4th Place – Hockey World Cup (1975), 6th Place – Champions Trophy (1993), FIH Champions Challenge 1 bronze medallists (2014),

Commonwealth Games silver medallists (1998), Asian Games silver medallists (2010), Asia Cup silver medallists (2017, 2022), Asia Cup bronze medallists (2007), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup gold medallists (2022), 4x Sultan Azlan Shah Cup silver medallists (1985, 2007, 2013, 2014), Asian Champions Trophy silver medallists (2023)

Nations Cup 2022/23: 4th

About: Malaysia have always been known for playing a free-flowing attacking style of hockey, but in recent times have stepped it up further, with the team committing to an all-out attacking style that may leave the defence exposed at times, but banks on their ability to score more goals than they let in. In their gold-medal winning campaign at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022, which remains their last major honour, Malaysia scored 16 goals in the pool stage of the, while no other team reached double digits!

Malaysia came into the previous edition of the Nations Cup as one of the favourites and made it to the semi-finals, but lost to eventual champions South Africa. Malaysia had a disappointing Men's World Cup in 2023, finishing in 13th place, but were a much improved outfit at the FIH Olympic Hockey Qualifiers in Oman earlier this year. They missed out on a semi-final place and Olympic Qualification, but made the most of the positional playoff matches, beating Chile and Canada to finish in 5th place.

One to watch: Razie Rahim.

At the age of 36 and with over 300 international appearances under his belt, Razie Rahim is a defensive stalwart, and along with captain Marhan Jalil, brings world class quality and experience to an otherwise extremely young Malaysian team. Rahim also remains Malaysia's most direct goal threat through his powerful low drag flicks that the team has started to include in a lot of modern variations.





Pakistan

Nickname: The Green Shirts

Current World Ranking: 15

Notable honours: Olympic gold medallists (1960, 1968, 1984), FIH World Cup winners (1971, 1978, 1982, 1994), Asian Games gold medallists (1958, 1962, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1990, 2010), Asia Cup champions (1982, 1985, 1989)



Nations Cup 2022/23: 7th

About: Very few teams can boast of a history that can rival that of the Pakistan hockey team.

3 Olympic gold medals and 4 gold medals at the FIH Hockey World Cups makes them one of the most successful nations in international hockey. But with their last major international success coming nearly three decades ago, and missing out on back-to-back World Cups and Olympic Games, Pakistan are at the ground level of a rebuild to take them back to their lofty heights of the past.

Pakistan have had a constant influx of young talent in the team over the past decade, but few have made an impact on the international level, leaving them in a state of constant rebuilding with raw and talented, but inexperienced players trying to match opponents with greater experience and cohesion.

The Pakistan team at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers gave the first proof of moving past that hurdle as they maintained continuity with a group of young players, led by the experienced Ammad Butt, and were on the doorsteps of qualifying for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, only to fall short in the final moments of the bronze medal match against New Zealand.

A win in the Nations Cup will give Pakistan an opportunity to build their squad further by playing more frequently at the top level in the Pro League, which could propel them back into the upper echelons of international hockey.

One to watch: Ammad Butt

Ammad Butt is the most experienced player in the Pakistani side, even as he starts to enter his prime at 28 years of age. Ammad has been trusted with the responsibility to captain Pakistan and with 144 international senior caps and 11 years of experience, having started his career at 17, he is perfectly placed to showcase the path towards consistent performance at the top level to the new generation of players.



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COMPETITION OFFICIALS

A complete list of competition officials for the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2023/24 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/men/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-poland-2023-24-1611/officials>

Information regarding the appointed officials for each match will be made available on the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup website around 24 hours before the start of the contest. To see this information, simply visit the link below, select the match that you are interested in and then click the 'match info' tab.

<https://www.fih.hockey/events/nations-cup/men/fih-hockey-mens-nations-cup-poland-2023-24-1611/schedule-fixtures-results>



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RANKINGS AND LOGO

FIH WORLD RANKINGS

To see the official FIH World Rankings, [click here](#).

FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP LOGO

You can request the FIH Nations Cup Logo at media@fih.hockey.



FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP PHOTOS

Photos from the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup Poland 2023/24 will be available to media members for download [here](#).



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