

P R E S S



24th AfHF Ordinary Congress
28 November 2023
Blantyre, Malawi

R E L E A S E



12 December 2023 | Blantyre, Malawi

The 24th AfHF Ordinary Congress recently took place in **Blantyre, Malawi** on 28 November 2023 after the 34th Men & 25th Women Editions of the **Africa Cup for Club Champions [ACCC]** were successfully hosted by the Hockey Association of Malawi (HAM). An Extra-Ordinary Congress session took place before the Ordinary Meeting of Congress where some AfHF Statutes amendments were approved. Fourteen (14) delegations attended the Congress out of 25 full member National Associations (NAs) at the Blantyre Marriott Ryalls Hotel.

The highlight of this 24th AfHF Ordinary Congress session was the attendance of the **FIH President, Mr. Tayyab Ikram**, who engaged with all delegates in discussions about hockey development in the African Continent. The FIH President presented to the Congress the recently launched “**FIH Engagement & Empowerment Strategy**”.

The main highlights of the speech and report of the **AfHF President, Mr. Seif Ahmed**, were about his role and achievements during the period July-November 2022 being the **FIH Acting President**, the preparations for the **13th African Games in Accra, Ghana in March 2024**, and the initiation of hockey in Senegal in preparation for the **2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games [YOG] in Senegal**.

AfHF CEO, Mr. Ahmed Azmy, presented a recap of the events for 2021/2022, as well as the events of the year ending 2023 highlighting the recent successful Olympic Qualifier “**African Hockey Road to Paris 2024**” that took place in Pretoria (South Africa) where, for the first time, matches were broadcasted Live on SuperSport channel, and a Video Assisted Umpiring Referral system was in place. An update on 2024 events was presented in detail and an **AfHF 4-year calendar** showed new FIH tournaments, namely the first FIH Hockey 5s World Cup, FIH Olympic Games/World Cup Qualifiers with new windows in March starting 2026, new Tier-2 FIH tournaments (Nations Cup – Nations Cup 2), and the **African Hockey Road Map to the FIH World Cups 2026**. Mr. Azmy also presented new AfHF tournament Regulations, highlighted the importance of social media platforms, gave an update on World Masters Hockey (WMH), and announced the renewal of the **MoUs** with the European Hockey Federation (EHF) & the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) for Officials exchange and education cooperation.

AfHF Development Committee Chair, Ms. Sarah Bennet, presented the development achievements during the last period citing online and face-to-face courses that were administered during the last period in cooperation with the FIH Academy (FIHA) and the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) highlighting the target of using and upgrading African Educators and the development road map for 2024 including new types of courses.

AfHF Awards were presented during the 24th AfHF Congress: **AfHF Development Award** granted to **NIGERIA** and the **Ayman Amin Award** (outstanding umpires awards) granted to **Ms. Wanri Venter (RSA) & Mr. Sean Rapaport (RSA)**, for Women and Men respectively, highlighting that both were recently appointed for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Elections took place for **3 positions** on the AfHF Executive Board and those elected received full votes for (12 votes out of 12 valid votes) with the following results: **President: Mr. Seif Ahmed (EGY)** re-elected | **Vice President: Ms. Sarah Bennett (ZIM)** | **EB Member: Mr. Shiraz Yakub (KEN)** re-elected. The Congress ended on a positive note where all members expressed their appreciation for the FIH President’s attendance of their Congress Meeting on African soil.

Notes to Editors: AfHF Media Contact: info@africahockey.org

About the African Hockey Federation (AfHF):

The African Hockey Federation is the governing body for the sport of hockey in the African continent. Founded in 1970, the AfHF today has 26 member National Associations. For more information on the AfHF, visit: <https://www.africahockey.org>