

Scottish Masters LX Hockey Club

International Sub Committee - World Cup Barcelona 2018

Summary of Player Feedback and Recommendations

Pre-Tournament

1. Preparation and Training

Training was excellent and input from Coach hugely beneficial.
The addition of Fitness and Stretching templates were very helpful.

New Selection Criteria will help to address a number of the points that were raised.
Fitness, attendance at training and selection

- Rec 1** Establish a 'management group' for each squad to administer their activities
- Rec 2** Sessions should be longer possibly with a break for lunch and a match in the afternoon
- Rec 3** More time on Set Piece work

2. Selection

Understanding that selection is difficult and in the main was handled well.
Timing of selection needs to be considered.
Players need to commit to the full international programme for the season (Programme needs to be available much earlier)

- Rec 4** New selection criteria should be circulated to all and available on the website
- Rec 5** A formal method of acknowledging selection to squad players should be adopted
- Rec 6** As per Masters guidelines for World and European events ALL players MUST arrive the day prior to Opening Ceremony and not leave until the day after Closing Ceremony

3. Communication

In general Communication was found to be good but could be earlier
Coordinators had carried out their roles well.
Responses from players was varied.

- Rec 7** Main method of communication preferred was by email (Need to make sure email addresses are up to date)
- Rec 8** LX website needs to have specific areas for International and Thistles to provide quicker access to relevant information
- Rec 9** Squads should consider using WhatsApp for internal communication (include physios). If so then a specific WhatsApp for tournament information should be considered to separate from the social/banter aspect.
- Rec 10** Use of the Hotel noticeboard where available

Tournament

1. Travel & Accommodation

Hotel was good with good food choices

Earlier booking might have offered a hotel closer to the venue

Bernie Morrison's efforts in securing accommodation was hugely appreciated

Rec 11 Early booking of hotels for key events with important related facilities (Pool)

Rec 12 Early decision as to whether all teams require to be accommodated in same hotel (Player feedback suggests No!)

2. Game day programme and match preparation (inc Physio support)

Physio support was excellent and ensured players lasted the tournament.

Murray did a great job especially having to do multiple teams

Generally good structure

Rec 13 Squad coaches and dedicated physios should be considered

Rec 14 Rec 1 would allow more structured and in depth preparation for matches as well as watching opposition

Rec 15 Debriefs in hotel/accommodation later

3. Game briefing and debriefing

See above

Rec 16 An in-depth scouting of the venue should be carried out to review facilities available for squad activities – shade, areas for team talks, warm ups, physio treatment

4. Post-match Activities

Post-match social with opponents were very successful.

Tournament dinner not of a standard

Difficult to balance tournament v family

Team meals an important aspect

Rec 17 Social Coordinator appointed for each squad

Rec 18 Scottish teams should have a formal post-match structure which includes socialising with opponents

Rec 19 At longer events at least one 'team' function should be arranged with all team members (including support staff) making every effort to attend

Post Tournament

1. Any other constructive comments & suggestions

Very enjoyable tournament

Music for warm up like Thistles

Fundraising and sponsorship opportunities

Rec 20 Manager for each squad

Rec 21 Pennants for opposition should be reconsidered

Rec 22 Equipment such as first aid kits, face masks, blood shirts MUST be regularly checked and allocated to each squad

Rec 23 New shirts for all international squads – do we coordinate with all Masters?

Rec 24 Each squad has to manage their own finances for the year and cover their own related costs from training sessions, coach and physio costs to tournament fees.

Rec 25 A medical form is introduced that all players MUST complete identifying any relevant medical conditions and medicines. These to be held electronically by the Secretary and held in some form by team manager, physio or coach.