KENYA HOCKEY UNION NEWSLETTER

HOCKEY JAMII

ISSUE 14 · NOVEMBER 2026

INSIGHTS INTO THE KENYA HOCKEY ECOSYSTEM



Joy on the pitch: a goal celebration from the 2026 KHU league season.

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SPOTLIGHT

Peter Obalo umpires the Asian Champions Trophy final

MESSAGE

From the Secretary General

It gives me great pleasure to confirm that the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) will host the Junior Africa Cup (JAC) 2027 for Men and Women, which will take place at the Sikh Union Club in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22nd to 30th January 2027.

This exciting development comes as our U18 national team prepares to travel to Egypt for the World Cup. These achievements clearly demonstrate that hockey is on the rise in Kenya, and we look forward to participating competitively and effectively in both tournaments.

With this positive news, hockey enthusiasts across the country will have the opportunity to witness top-quality hockey. As expectations continue to rise and the Olympics remain firmly on the horizon, it is imperative that we strengthen our feeder systems and academies through enhanced technical, mental, psychological, and physical support. This will ensure that our athletes are fully prepared for the challenges ahead.

The journey begins with early preparation and continuous development of coaches, technical officials, umpires, and other support personnel. Their contribution is critical to the sustainable growth of the sport, and they remain our first line of development and mentorship for the next generation of players.

At the Union, we recognize and deeply appreciate the sacrifices made by these dedicated officials. We encourage more individuals to come on board and contribute to our vision of ensuring that hockey is played and administered at a consistently high standard across the country.

Thank you.

Wycliffe Ongori
Hon. Secretary General, Kenya Hockey Union



Wycliffe Ongori, Hon. Secretary General, Kenya Hockey Union.

TWO BIG TOURNAMENTS, ONE PROUD SEASON

WORLD STAGE

FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup

Cairo, Egypt
7–12 December 2026
Kenya U18 men and women

HOME SOIL

Junior Africa Cup 2027

Sikh Union Club, Nairobi
22–30 January 2027
Men and women

MESSAGE

From the desk of the President



As we near the close of the 2026 season, I want to speak directly to our hockey family: players, clubs, counties, umpires, parents, fans and partners, and especially our young players, who are the future of this sport.

1. YEAR-END REFLECTION: A COMPETITIVE 2026

Our U18 teams carried our flag with pride at the Youth Africa Cup (YAC 2026), and our KHU Leagues remained fiercely competitive. In the Premier League, we have watched Warriors and Jaguars go back and forth at the summit, a seesaw battle that has kept the league alive until the very end. But I will be honest: we also received many requests for changes and complaints during the season. That tells us our systems need to be stronger. We must find lasting solutions now, so that these same issues do not return in the 2027/28 season.

2. PLAYER GROWTH, NEW CLUBS AND MOVING ABROAD

I am proud of the growth of our players. More of our young talent are now transitioning to clubs outside the country, and the number of hockey clubs in Kenya has increased. However, growth without proper management is a risk. The level of club management remains a challenge, and we must address it if we are to raise the quality of our game.

On players seeking greener pastures overseas: we support ambition, but we must protect our players. Both players and their respective clubs must carry out due diligence before committing to any move. Where the Union is doubtful about a player's welfare, we may be forced to decline issuance of the No Objection Certificate (NOC). This is not punishment. It is protection.

3. HOCKEY JAMII AND OUR DIGITAL GROWTH

Hockey Jamii continues to grow, and KHU's social media presence has grown significantly. This is how the world now sees us. With that growth comes responsibility. We must demand and maintain professionalism in everything we post, say and share. Our platforms must reflect the dignity of our sport.

4. DISCIPLINE, RESPECT AND UMPIRING STANDARDS

Discipline and respect for umpires is mandatory. There is no negotiation on this. At the same time, the Kenya Hockey Umpires Association (KHUA) must work harder to improve the quality of our umpires, through better familiarity with the rules and regulations and uniformity in how those rules are applied.

We celebrate Peter Obalo's achievement, but we must not over-celebrate while our numbers are falling. We should be concerned that our pool of international umpires is shrinking at a very fast pace. We must rebuild it.

5. SUPPORTING OUR NATIONAL TEAMS

Support for our national teams as they prepare has always been a challenge. Very few corporates are willing to invest because they ask what they will gain in return. Despite this challenge, the Union will keep inviting partners, parents and fans to stand with us.

I call on all of you to back our U18 teams (men and women) travelling to Cairo in early December, and to fill the stands in Nairobi in January for the U21 JAC. Our young players deserve to play in front of a full, loud and proud home crowd.

6. GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS

We thank the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Education, the Sports Fund, our main sponsors, and the African Hockey Federation for understanding us and helping where they can. We are honest about the reality: we have very little to celebrate in terms of corporate sponsorships. That is a gap we must close together.

7. VISION FOR 2027

In 2027, the Union will continue to do its best in development, junior pathways, and hosting international events. But the Union cannot do it alone. Clubs and counties must play their roles effectively to complement the Union's efforts. Development starts at the grassroots: in every county, in every school, in every club. Our vision is clear: a strong pipeline from U18 to U21 to senior teams, built on discipline, coaching and opportunity.

8. A CALL FOR UNITY

Finally, my call is for unity. Clubs, players, counties, umpires and fans: we must pull in the same direction. We may disagree on details, but we must never disagree on the mission: to grow Kenyan hockey and to protect our youth.

Let us enter 2027 united, professional, and focused on our young players.

Thank you, and may God bless Kenyan hockey.

Col. (Rtd) Nashon Randiek
President, Kenya Hockey Union

NATIONAL TEAMS

U18 HOCKEY5S

Kenya's U18s take on the world in Cairo

Twenty-four teams, sixteen nations and five matches each: Kenya's men and women are ready for the first-ever FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup.



Together before the storm. Kenya U18 players gather in a huddle ahead of a Hockey5s match.

Cairo hosts the first-ever FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup from 7 to 12 December 2026, with 12 men's and 12 women's teams. FIH lists a development programme for players and staff before the matches begin, so the week is about learning as much as winning.

The numbers tell the story of a format built for speed. The 24 sides come from 16 nations across four continents and will play 60 matches over four days of non-stop Hockey5s, with five matches guaranteed for every team.

Kenya arrives with pedigree. The country's men reached the quarter-finals of the inaugural senior FIH Hockey5s World Cup in Muscat in January 2024 and finished seventh, and the Youth Africa Cup staged in Nairobi in August served as the continent's qualifying route. Now a new generation gets its turn on the world stage.

WHAT THE DRAW TELLS US

Both Kenyan sides meet Iran, so the opening week has one common thread for the men and the women.

The men have a date with the hosts. In Pool C they face Egypt, who won the 2022 Africa Hockey5s qualifier, where Kenya took bronze. Austria and Iran complete the group.

The women meet two European sides. Pool B pairs Kenya with Poland and Ukraine as well as Iran.

With five matches guaranteed for every team, no result is the end of the road, but a fast start will matter in a format this quick. Behind the squads stands the Union, which is calling on partners, parents and fans to back both teams as they travel in early December. Hockey Jamii will follow every result.



Ready for kick-off. Kenya's U18 women line up before a match.

THE POOLS

POOL	WOMEN'S DRAW	POOL	MEN'S DRAW
A	India · Egypt · Brazil · Kazakhstan	A	Poland · Nigeria · South Africa · Uruguay
B	Poland · Ukraine · **Kenya** · Iran	B	India · Switzerland · Bangladesh · Chile
C	South Africa · Uruguay · Nigeria · China	C	Egypt · **Kenya** · Iran · Austria

PIN-UP

Kenya U18 Hockey5s to the World Cup

KENYA U18 WOMEN

FIH YOUTH HOCKEY5S WORLD CUP · CAIRO



Marina Macrae
PLAYER



Mishel Oguk
PLAYER



Claire Ndegwa
PLAYER



Laura Kadogo
PLAYER



Mitchelle Khatikoli
PLAYER



Vallery Iminza
PLAYER



Audrey Grener
PLAYER



Ruth Awino
PLAYER



Virginia Moraa
PLAYER



Glenis Namasake
TEAM MANAGER



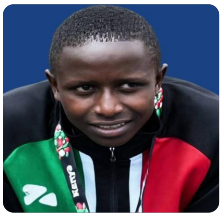
Shanel Helida
CAPTAIN



Barbara Simiyu
COACH

KENYA U18 MEN

FIH YOUTH HOCKEY5S WORLD CUP · CAIRO



Peter Wachira
PLAYER



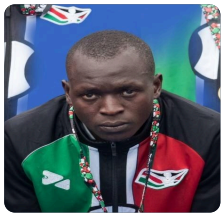
Kerry Lusweti
PLAYER



Godfrey Fedha
PLAYER



Peter Awot
PLAYER



Daniel Omondi
PLAYER



Caleb Korir
PLAYER



Reagan Meshach
PLAYER



Carl Jeremy Okoth
PLAYER



Jack Owino
PLAYER



Julius Masero
TEAM MANAGER

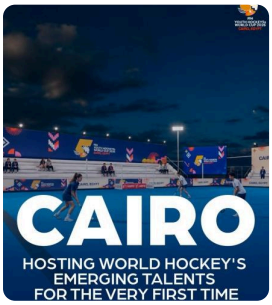


Kevin Onyango
CAPTAIN



Kevin Lugalia
COACH

FACTS ABOUT THE INAUGURAL U18 HOCKEY5S WORLD CUP









NATIONAL TEAMS

U21 · JUNIOR AFRICA CUP

Building momentum: U21 teams gear up for the Junior Africa Cup

Open trials, weekend camps and a home crowd waiting: Kenya's next generation is racing the clock to Nairobi 2027.



Training day. Kenya's U21 squad pose together during a weekend session ahead of the Junior Africa Cup.

The countdown to the Junior Africa Cup is on. The tournament also serves as the World Cup qualifier and runs in Nairobi from 22 to 30 January 2027, putting Kenya's next generation of hockey talent on home soil with a global stage at stake.

The journey began at City Park Stadium, where open trials for boys and girls were held on 24 and 25 October, and again on 31 October and 1 November. The call was open to players born on or after 1 January 2006 and aged at least 15, and young players from across the country came forward to make their case.

The squads that emerged from the first trials have not slowed down. They have trained every weekend since, building the fitness, understanding and chemistry that a short qualifying window demands. The work has drawn media attention, with KTN's News Hub featuring the team's preparations.

Training has since moved from City Park to Hillcrest, giving the players the feel of a better ground as match day nears. Men's head coach Griffin Okombe says that despite the limited time, the coaching staff is drilling both teams to mirror game situations as closely as possible, so a real match feels familiar when the pressure arrives.

For the young men and women in the squads, every session is a step toward wearing the Kenyan colours at a tournament that could open the door to the World Cup. Hockey Jamii will keep following their progress.

TOURNAMENT FILE

What
Junior Africa Cup 2027, men and women

When
22 to 30 January 2027

Where
Sikh Union Club, Nairobi

At stake
World Cup qualification

FILL THE STANDS

Our young players deserve to play in front of a full, loud and proud home crowd.

SPOTLIGHT

Peter Obalo: Kenya's umpire on the world stage

Congratulations from the KHU Council and Executive Board to FIH accredited umpire Peter Obalo, Secretary General of the Kenya Hockey Umpires Association, for umpiring regular matches and the India v Japan final at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2026 in Mohali, Punjab, India.



Peter Obalo (second from left) with the captains and officials at the pre-match ceremony for the India v Japan final, Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2026, Mohali.

HIS TOURNAMENT IN PUNJAB

Across the tournament Peter worked as an on-field umpire, video umpire and reserve umpire, culminating in the semi-final and the final.

DATE	MATCH	STAGE	ROLE	SCORE
29 Oct	Bangladesh v Japan	Round robin	Video umpire	0–1
30 Oct	Bangladesh v Malaysia	Round robin	Reserve umpire	1–6
30 Oct	Japan v India	Round robin	On-field umpire	1–4
1 Nov	Malaysia v India	Round robin	Video umpire	2–4
2 Nov	Japan v Malaysia	Round robin	On-field umpire	2–1
4 Nov	Japan v Malaysia	Semi-final	On-field umpire	0–0 (5–3 shoot-out)
5 Nov	**India v Japan**	**Final**	**On-field umpire**	**4–1**

A DECADE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

2022 **Commonwealth Games, Birmingham.** The only Kenyan umpire chosen for the Games, he took charge of senior fixtures including India's 11–0 win over Ghana.

2021 **Men's FIH Junior World Cup, Bhubaneswar.** The only Kenyan official named for the 16-nation under-21 tournament.

2019 **Sultan of Johor Cup, Malaysia.** Appointed by the FIH as a neutral umpire for the under-21 invitational.

2019 **African Olympic Qualifiers, South Africa.** Officiated high-stakes matches that decided Africa's pathway to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

2018 **Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires.** Officiated key Hockey5s matches, including the third-place match between Argentina and Zambia.

2015 **Africa Cup of Nations, Johannesburg.** Earned his first senior international umpiring cap, launching his global career.



Peter Obalo signalling a decision during a match at the tournament.

> *"Reaching the final of the Asian Champions Trophy as an umpire is a massive testament to his dedication, consistency, and discipline on the field."*
>
> **Wycliffe Ongori, Secretary General, KHU**

HOCKEY JAMII · KENYA HOCKEY UNION LEAGUES

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Unstoppable Blazers go unbeaten to the 2026 title

Thirteen wins, two draws and the crown sealed with three fixtures still to spare.



Blazers feeling Bango Bie. The champions celebrate on the blue turf. Photo: Hockeylens

Blazers Hockey Club are sitting comfortably at the summit with an unassailable 41 points (+40 goal difference) from 15 matches. Their record is pristine: 13 wins and 2 draws, no defeats. Blazers have mathematically sealed the crown with three fixtures still to spare.

THE RACE FOR THE PODIUM

The fight for second place remains intense.

2nd, Strathmore Scorpions (30 pts, +17 GD): holding down second place after 17 matches (8W, 6D, 3L).

3rd, Lakers Hockey Club (28 pts, +11 GD): tied on points with fourth place, with two games in hand (16 played).

4th, Kisumu Queens (28 pts, +10 GD): locked on 28 points alongside Lakers after wrapping up all 18 of their fixtures.

5th, USIU-A Spartans (27 pts, +5 GD): breathing right down the necks of the top four with two matches remaining.

RELEGATION WATCH

At the foot of the table, Sliders Hockey Club have concluded all 18 of their season fixtures in 9th place with 12 points (−25 GD) and look set to drop to the Super League Women. Meanwhile, J.K.U.A.T. Hockey Ladies anchor the table in 10th with 4 points (−46 GD) from 15 matches.

TABLE SNAPSHOT

POS	CLUB	P	PTS	GD
1	**Blazers Hockey Club**	**15**	**41**	**+40**
2	Strathmore Scorpions	17	30	+17
3	Lakers Hockey Club	16	28	+11
4	Kisumu Queens	18	28	+10
5	USIU-A Spartans	16	27	+5
9	Sliders Hockey Club	18	12	−25
10	J.K.U.A.T. Hockey Ladies	15	4	−46

HOCKEY JAMII · KENYA HOCKEY UNION LEAGUES

MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Warriors leapfrog Sikh Union to take first

The title race goes down to the wire after a crucial Saturday win over USIU-A.



"Usione simba amenyeshewa..." Definitely cold at the top. Photo: HockeyLens

The Men's Premier League title race continues to go down to the wire, with Butali Warriors reclaiming the top spot after Match Week 17. A crucial Saturday victory over USIU-A propelled Warriors from 2nd back into 1st place on 35 points (+22 GD) from 16 matches (10W, 5D, 1L).

That single win was enough to nudge Sikh Union down into 2nd place on 34 points (+19 GD, 17 played).

"Usione simba amenyeshewa ukadhani ni paka."

Never mistake a rained-on lion for a cat. We wait to see if the old Swahili saying holds true.

TITLE CONTENDERS AND MID-TABLE

3rd, Western Jaguars (32 pts, +18 GD): still firmly in title contention, just three points off the top with 16 games played.

4th, Wazalendo Hockey Club (29 pts, +14 GD): holding steady after 17 matches.

BOTTOM THREE

8th, USIU-A Mashujaa (18 pts, −14 GD): despite their weekend loss to Warriors, they hold 8th place with games in hand (14 played).

9th, Kisumu Youngstars (17 pts, −8 GD): just one point behind USIU-A after 17 matches.

10th, Greensharks (1 pt, −35 GD): anchored at the bottom without a win in 17 outings (0W, 1D, 16L).

TABLE SNAPSHOT

POS	CLUB	P	PTS	GD
1	**Butali Warriors**	**16**	**35**	**+22**
2	Sikh Union	17	34	+19
3	Western Jaguars	16	32	+18
4	Wazalendo Hockey Club	17	29	+14
8	USIU-A Mashujaa	14	18	−14
9	Kisumu Youngstars	17	17	−8
10	Greensharks	17	1	−35

Stay tuned to Hockey Jamii for upcoming fixture schedules and final-week title deciders!

SUPER LEAGUES

KHU 2026

Super League and National League round-up

The 2026 campaigns are entering a decisive phase, with intense battles for promotion spots and growing concern over fixture forfeits across the lower tiers.

SUPER LEAGUE: UNIVERSITY SIDES AND TWINKLE SET THE PACE

Super League Men (SLM): KCA University lead the table with 22 points from 10 matches, cementing their top spot over the weekend with a hard-fought 3–2 victory against Wazalendo Masters. Strathmore University sit three points behind in second (19 points, 10 played) after being held to a 1–1 draw by Impala, while Parkroad Badgers occupy third (16 points, 11 played) following a 3–1 derby win over Parkroad Tigers.

Super League Women (SLW): Twinkle Hockey Club maintain a commanding nine-point cushion at the summit with 29 points from 11 outings. Behind them, Lakers Hockey Club-B (20 points, 9 played) and Wazalendo Pearls (19 points, 9 played) are locked in a close race for second, with the Pearls boosting their goal difference via an emphatic 6–0 weekend rout of Kisii Uni Ladies.

SLM · top three

#	CLUB	P	PTS
1	**KCA University**	**10**	**22**
2	Strathmore University	10	19
3	Parkroad Badgers	11	16

SLW · top three

#	CLUB	P	PTS
1	**Twinkle Hockey Club**	**11**	**29**
2	Lakers Hockey Club-B	9	20
3	Wazalendo Pearls	9	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE MEN (NLM): ZONAL STANDINGS

Across the four regional zones, frontrunners are beginning to separate themselves from the chasing pack. Leaders and runners-up, with points:

Eastern Zone

Ulinzi Patriots	**27 pts · 12 played**
UoN Cubs	24 pts
Mombasa Sports Club	21 pts

Central Zone

GHF Rift Pirates Men	**28 pts · 12 played**
Chuka University	18 pts
JKUAT	17 pts

Western Zone

Kitale Hockey Club	**31 pts · 12 played**
Fire Flickers	18 pts
Western Jaguars Dev	18 pts

Southern Zone

Bay Club	**31 pts · 12 played**
Kisii Falcons	29 pts
Kisii University	21 pts

LOGISTICS AND GROUND CHALLENGES FUEL A SURGE IN WALKOVERS

Despite competitive action on the turf, the Super League and National League seasons have been noticeably disrupted by a high number of walkovers. Limited availability of playable grounds, particularly with scheduling bottlenecks around major venues like schools, has forced frequent last-minute venue adjustments. Combined with poor logistical planning and travel constraints among self-funded and institutional teams, several clubs have failed to honour away fixtures, handing out crucial points without a ball being struck and threatening the sporting integrity of the promotion races.

DEVELOPMENT

GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT

How Coach32 is shaping Western Kenya's next generation



Coach32 Hockey Development Hub players and coaches at one of the academy's training bases in Kakamega County.



Young talents from the hub's age groups line up with their coaches after a session.

Founded in October 2023 by Baraza Nangaki in Kakamega County, Coach32 Hockey Development Hub has rapidly emerged as a vital pipeline for grassroots field hockey in Western Kenya. Operating out of two training bases, Mukumu Girls High School and Eregi TTC Hockey Fields, the academy blends technical mastery with character building under its core pillars of Passion, Purpose and Value, aligning directly with the grassroots visions of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU).

NURTURING 105 YOUNG TALENTS

Supported by a dedicated 14-member technical, medical and fitness team led by Technical Director Bostley Asenabi and Head Coach Sikolia Moses Wakoli, the academy currently trains 105 young athletes across three structured age brackets. Through consistent after-school sessions, weekend clinics and intensive school holiday boot camps, players develop core fundamentals, tactical awareness and physical conditioning.

Under-13	17 boys	12 girls — 29 players
Under-16	20 boys	21 girls — 41 players
Under-19	12 boys	23 girls — 35 players

ON-TURF TRIUMPHS AND EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Coach32's structured approach is already paying dividends both on the pitch and in the classroom. In January 2026, **14 Grade 10 athletes** from the hub earned full education scholarships to prestigious National and Extra-County secondary schools, a testament to how the programme uses sport to unlock life-changing opportunities.

Aug 2025	Crowned GHF School Network Champions (Mukumu Edition).
Apr 2026	Captured the Western Region Juniors Hockey Festival title (Mukumu Edition).
Aug 2026	Won the U13 Girls championship, with strong podium finishes across other categories, at the inaugural Guza Kuza Tournament in Kisumu.

OVERCOMING HURDLES TO SUSTAIN GROWTH

Coach32 operates largely through management sacrifices, equipment donations, KHU support and community WhatsApp fund drives. To scale its impact, the hub faces pressing hurdles: limited playing gear, pitch maintenance demands, transport constraints (with a pressing need for a team minibus) and a need for advanced KHU coaching clinics to further empower its trainers.

Support grassroots hockey: partner with Coach32

Looking to sponsor equipment, support youth scholarships, or contribute toward the academy's team minibus fund? Connect directly with the Coach32 leadership team.

Phone / WhatsApp
+254 113 386 823
+254 729 857 141

Training bases
Mukumu Girls High School and Eregi TTC Hockey Fields, Kakamega

NOTICES AND DATES

FILL THE STANDS.

Our young players deserve to play in front of a full, loud and proud home crowd. Back the U18s in Cairo, then pack Sikh Union Club for the Junior Africa Cup.

ADVERTISING SPACE

Your brand here.

Partner with Hockey Jamii

Reach clubs, players, parents and fans across Kenya's hockey family. Brands and partners are warmly invited to advertise with us.

info@kenyahockeyunion.org
0723 056 535 · 0710 291 959

EARLY DEC

Team departs

Kenya U18 men and women travel to Cairo

Partners, parents and fans are invited to stand with the team as it prepares to travel.

7–12 DEC

World Cup

FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup

Cairo, Egypt. 12 men's and 12 women's teams. Kenya's men are in Pool C, the women in Pool B.

22–30 JAN

Junior Africa Cup

Junior Africa Cup 2027, men and women

Sikh Union Club, Nairobi. The tournament doubles as the World Cup qualifier.

HOCKEY JAMII

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