OFFICIALS · CONGRATULATIONS

Peter Obalo Umpires the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Final

The Council and the Executive Board of the Kenya Hockey Union congratulate our FIH accredited umpire on a landmark appointment in Punjab, India.

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Peter Obalo (second from left) at the pre-match presentation before the final between India and Japan.

The Kenya Hockey Union (KHU), together with the Council and the Executive Board, warmly congratulates Peter Obalo, FIH accredited umpire and Secretary General of the Kenya Hockey Umpires Association (KHUA), on his appointment to the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2026 in Punjab, India.

Peter officiated regular matches during the tournament and was then entrusted with the final between India and Japan, played before a packed crowd at the Olympian Balbir Singh (Senior) International Hockey Stadium in Mohali.

> **A final is entrusted only to officials who have earned complete confidence. Peter has earned it for Kenya.**

A mark of trust and standards

Being appointed to a final is a clear sign of the trust placed in Peter, and a reminder of the high standards to which our officials are held. It shows that Kenyan umpires can deliver at the top of the international game.



On the pitch at the Mohali stadium.



At the Asian Champions Trophy 2026 signage, Punjab.

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

The Mohali final is the latest chapter in more than ten years of international umpiring that has taken Peter across the world:

- **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.

An inspiration to our officials

Peter continues to raise the bar. As Secretary General of KHUA he leads by example, and his journey shows every Kenyan umpire, young and experienced, what commitment, preparation and professionalism can achieve.



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

> *"Congratulations to Peter Obalo on this well-deserved milestone! Reaching the final of the Asian Champions Trophy as an umpire is a massive testament to his dedication, consistency, and discipline on the field.*
>
> *Starting out in the late 2010s and rising to become both an elite umpire and the Secretary of the Kenya Hockey Umpires Association (KHUA) is no small feat. It is a proud moment not just for the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) and KHUA, but for the entire Kenyan hockey community.*
>
> *Peter took charge of the final between India and Japan, a proud moment for the Kenyan hockey fraternity. He keeps our flag flying high!"*
>
> **Wycliffe Ongori, Secretary General, Kenya Hockey Union**

On behalf of the Council and the Executive Board, congratulations, Peter. Kenya is proud of you, and we look forward to seeing you inspire the next generation of officials.