



South Central Adult Hockey League: Season 2024-5 Welcome Letter

Welcome to the new season, the South Central Adult Hockey League's fourth season.

On the Mens' side we welcome two new clubs - Blandford & Sturminster HC and Burford HC.

I would also like to offer a warm welcome to the new teams which have joined the league:

- Men: Alton 5, Blandford & Sturminster 1, Burford 1, Haslemere 6, Oxford Hawks 8 and Weymouth 2.
- Women: Alton 5, Andover 3, Havant 5, South Berkshire 6, Southampton University 4, Staines 4 and Winchester 5.

Good luck to all new teams in the new season.

This Letter includes information and further details on the new season; please see the attached pages for more detail. Please take the time to read the details at your leisure. However, I would like to draw your attention to the key messages for season 2024-25:-

1. The dates for the new season are included [in this document](#). Clubs need to be aware of the dates for inputting venue and start times into GMS for their home matches; rearranging games outside term time (University clubs and their opponents) and player registration.
2. There have been some changes to the Divisional Secretary team for this season: We welcome Helen Hyde, Will Green and Helen Newcombe to the team. We also thank Nicki Smith and David Hughes for their sterling work for the League, they have both decided to stand down. The up-to-date list of Divisional Secretaries is shown in this document. [Link to section](#).
3. Clubs need to be aware of the regulations changes for this season. The regulations are on the South-Central website and also a list of key changes since the 2023-4 regulations. Both can be found here: <https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents> .

4. This season there is a new process for the Selection Exemption Pass (SXP). The process is documented on the South Central website, please see: <https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/south-central-hockey-selection-exception-pass-instruction>
5. The ALMC has decided that the South-Central League will not have “development” teams in season 2024-5. The ALMC will review this decision annually, based on club feedback.
6. University Fixtures please see the appropriate section for the League’s position on University Fixtures in 2024-5. Link to section.
7. Can I ask that all clubs ensure their contacts on GMS are up to date and include a contact for your club treasurer (including a dedicated email address, if possible). Could the club treasurer contact also be sent to finance@southcentral.hockey before the start of the season. This will greatly help the Divisional Secretaries and the League Organisation.

On behalf of the Area League Management Committee (ALMC), I hope you have an enjoyable 2024-5 season.

Best wishes,

Richard Wood

Chairman South Central Adult League.

Appendix - Further details for Season 2024-25

Key dates

The key dates for season 2024-5 are:

Home teams complete fixture time and venue on GMS for fixtures in the FIRST HALF of the season, by:-	Sunday 8 th September, 2024
University clubs to advise League of Term dates and the fixtures they will have to rearrange outside of Term for the whole season:-	Sunday 8 th September, 2024
First scheduled league fixtures:-	Saturday 14 th September, 2024 (13/14 team divisions only). Saturday 21 st September, 2024 (other divisions)
October Half term – no fixtures in the majority of divisions	Saturday 26 th October 2024
Home teams complete fixture time and venue on GMS for fixtures in the SECOND HALF of the season, by:-	Sunday 1 st December, 2024
Final scheduled league fixtures before Christmas break	Saturday 14 th December, 2024 (13/14 team divisions only). Saturday 7 th December, 2024 (other divisions).
First scheduled league fixtures after Christmas break	Saturday 11 th January, 2025
Deadline for player registration for:- Players who have not played for another club this season; Players transferring from another club.	Saturday 1 st February, 2025
February Half term – no fixtures in the majority of divisions	Saturday 15 th February 2025
Final scheduled league fixtures:-	Saturday 26 th April 2025 (13/14 team divisions only). Saturday 29 th March, 2025 (other divisions).
Clubs leaving or joining the league for next season must notify the league by:-	Thursday 1 st May, 2025

Links

Please see the attached links, which take you to further information about the South Central League:-

[Area League Regulations, 2024-25](#)

[GMS](#)

[South Central Web Site](#)

[South Central Officiating](#)

[EH Discipline and Disrepute](#)

[GMS - Team Admin Information](#)

2024-25 Fixtures

This season's fixtures are available on [GMS and the South Central Website](#). Can I remind clubs and teams that they need to update their home fixtures on GMS with start time and venue as soon as possible. When proposing start times for matches: please consider your opponent's travel times and ensure that departure or return times are "acceptable" for the longer trips. See league regulation 6.3.3 for more detail.

League Contacts

Your league contacts for 2024-25 will be:-

SC League Chairman	Richard Wood	Chairman.Adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's Premier Divisions	Caroline Hitchcock	womenspremier.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's North Divisions	Emma O'Neill	womensnorth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's South Divisions	Emma O'Neill	womenssouth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's Cherwell Divisions	Helen Newcombe	womenscherwell.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's Forest Divisions	Helen Hyde	womensforest.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's Solent Divisions	Helen Hyde	womenssolent.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Women's Thames Divisions	Jo Copsey	womensthames.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's Premier Divisions	Caroline Hitchcock	menspremier.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's North Divisions	Mike Robson	mensnorth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's South Divisions	Ian Southgate	menssouth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's Cherwell Divisions	Will Green	menscherwell.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's Forest Divisions	Ian Southgate	mensforest.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's Solent Divisions	Ian Southgate	menssolent.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey
SC Men's Thames Divisions	Mike Robson	mensthames.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey

Changes to the Rules of Hockey

No changes to the FIH Rules of Hockey have been made for this season. There are slight changes to the wording of the EH local variations of the FIH rules, as observed in English Domestic Hockey. These are documented in Appendix 3 of the League Regulations.

The last FIH rules updates were expected in January 2024, but were not issued.

GMS, Match and Team sheets

GMS continues to be the system that supports the EH Leagues. It is important that all clubs check that the details they have on GMS are up-to-date. In particular:

- Club Admin contact
- Team contacts

These will be the contact points that the Divisional Secretaries will be using to contact clubs.

All teams are now required to complete a Team Sheet (including player's numbers) before the game and Match sheets (including scorers and cards) after the game. These will be checked by the Divisional Secretaries and teams who regularly fail to input the Team/Match sheet as required will be warned and (for repeat occurrences) fined. Please be aware that the settings on GMS are changing for the 2024-25 season, in that teamsheets must be submitted before the relevant game, teamsheets submitted after the game will be marked as "late" by the system.

Please note that the remaining match details need adding to the system, by:

- Grade 2-5: match result, by 20:00 hrs on the day of the match;
- Grade 2-3: Goal scorers, green, yellow and red cards, by 20:00 hrs on the day of the match;
- Grade 4-5: Goal scorers, green, yellow and red cards, by 20:00 hrs on the day after the match.

For matches with Club Umpires, the umpires' names must be recorded on the appropriate team's teamsheet.

Relegation and Promotion

Promotion and Relegation will in the main be “two up; two down”. But there are some exceptions:-

- Where an area or sub area feeds into a larger geographical league (as happens in Premier 1, North 1, South 1, Cherwell 1, Forest 1, Solent 1 and Thames 1). Here only the champion team will be promoted.
- If two teams of the same sub-area are relegated from the same division to a lower sub-area (for example National League to SC Premier or lowest South Division to Forest/Solent 1). Here less or more relegations will be needed in the lower divisions and all their “feeder” divisions to maintain divisional size.
- Where teams have resigned from the League mid-season, fewer teams may be relegated in that Division and feeder Divisions to maintain divisional sizes.
- The league reserves the right to promote or relegate additional teams to enable equalisation of Divisional sizes; to replace withdrawn teams; or to restructure the league.

Match Confirmation, Hospitality and Etiquette

We would strongly recommend that teams contact each other in the week before fixtures, to confirm time/venue, colours and whether the away team will stay for teas. If teams say they will stay for teas and then subsequently don't, they may find themselves charged for the cost of those teas, by the home club (see regulation 6.6 for details of Hospitality/Teas).

Home teams are expected to provide “Hospitality” (ie match teas) to their opposition. Please note, if a club/team are unable to provide hospitality they can seek permission, with justification, from the ALMC not to provide (see regulation 6.6.1). But this permission must be requested before the League Season starts and all effected opposition informed, again before the first game is played.

Postponements

Where a game is postponed and not cancelled, the relevant Divisional Secretary must be consulted prior to the new date being agreed. In the event of a postponement, a date for the rearrangement must be agreed within 7 days of the postponed fixture. The match must be replayed within 15 days for Grade 2 matches and 29 days for grades 3-5, using a League Reserve date if possible.

Please also ensure that Umpires are informed of any match postponement.

When bad weather is predicted that could cause a postponement, home teams need to keep the away team and umpires in touch with the situation and plans for pitch inspections etc. Contact details need to be swapped and a call made in the case of a postponement, to both the away side and the two umpires. This is to prevent unnecessary travel. Please see section 13.2 of the Regulations for more detail.

Reserve Dates

Teams are encouraged to play any postponed or abandoned games on the EH/South Central Reserve dates. These dates are, for the majority of SC Divisions:-

- Saturday 26th October
- Saturday 2nd November (10/9 team divisions only)
- Saturday 14th December
- Saturday 4th January
- Sunday 2nd February
- Saturday 15th February
- Saturday 22nd February (10/9 team divisions only)
- Sunday 23rd March
- Saturday 5th April
- Sunday 13th April.

Umpires

Aside from divisions which get SCO appointed umpires, umpires will normally be provided by the home side for each game. However, this may be waived where an alternative arrangement has been agreed between the clubs. These changes have been reflected within the regulations (see 11.1.2).

Teams now have to enter the name(s) of their umpires within the teamsheet.

Yellow Cards

It is each club's responsibility to monitor all yellow cards received by any of their players and record on GMS. Where there are persistent re-offenders, the club must take a considered view on the need to suspend these players (see 12.2). Please inform the ALMC of any suspensions applied.

Player registration

Clubs are reminded of the need to register any new players on GMS. They must be registered before they play. The regulations on team selection are in the league regulations (see section 7). I would encourage all team captains/administrators to read them prior to the season starting. The regulations allow players to play for a higher team than their usual team, but put restrictions on players playing for lower than their usual team and when players are allowed to "double up". This is all in the interests of a fair selection policy and ensuring a level playing field.

University Fixtures

This season, we have attempted to revise the process of fitting University games into the available University terms. We have two Universities playing in the South Central League (Southampton and Oxford), both with multiple men's and women's teams.

For grade 2, all teams are expected to play their matches on the dates set out in the fixtures (unless bad weather causes a postponement).

For grades 3-5, a number of games involving the Universities have already been moved from the opening Saturdays of both halves of the season to the half-term "reserve dates". There will be a handful of games that remain outside the University terms. These games can be moved to a mutually agreeable date, so long as their opponents agree.

All changes to the published fixture list must be agreed with the appropriate Divisional Secretary and all changes (for the entire season) completed by 8th September 2024.

Ramadan

Ramadan falls between 28th February and 30th March this season.

If teams need changes to the published fixtures or start times for religious reasons, please contact your opposition and Divisional Secretary. We would hope that such changes can be accommodated (see reg 5.1, 5.2.4 and 6.3).