

These are the most frequently asked questions from clubs. You will recognise most of these ideas.

## 1. How do we get new umpires?

As we all know, this is really difficult. Clubs are the only realistic source of new umpires, and the sport of course depends on that.

Obviously clubs look to players to become qualified (75% of qualified umpires also play), as well as anyone retiring or injured. However, also look to others around the club, even if they've never played:

- Parents of juniors are often present at training sessions and games anyway. They are one of the best sources of new club volunteers, including umpires.
- Players' partners/friends are often around too.

When approaching anyone new, be up to speed on the options for a gentle introduction to the game. Getting started as an umpire is not as daunting as it may seem. England Hockey's [Getting Started page gives an overview](#).

## 2. How do we provide an introduction to the game for those interested?

Newbies need both knowledge and gentle match practice, and can be supported in other ways.

- Knowledge
  - The [worldwide Rules of Hockey are here](#), and there's an app too.
  - England Hockey provides an 'Introduction to Umpiring' online course, aimed at those with little or no umpiring knowledge. [Find one here](#).
- Practice is obviously important. Until they're confident enough, avoid full adult league games that might put them off. Gentler options include:
  - Matches during adult training sessions - easily organised. Discuss with your club's coaches and find out if they have any specific outcomes for the session, such as reactions to intentionally incorrect umpiring decisions.
  - Junior training sessions/games. If your club doesn't have a junior section, nearby ones that do may well be able to help.
  - Back to Hockey sessions - if your club, or others nearby, run them.
  - Summer hockey.

- Support
  - Accompany newbies to sessions and talk before and after.
  - Pair them with an experienced umpire, using radios if possible.

### 3. How do we prepare someone for Level 1 assessment?

- They need to complete the Level 1 Online Course. [Find one here. at the Hockey Hub](#) - free registration is required.
  - Provided by England Hockey, it covers theoretical aspects of umpiring the 11-a-side game.
  - The Hockey Hub contains a range of other umpiring resources.
  - The course costs £30, you may wish to offer a reimbursement scheme.
- Review the [Level 1 Assessment Forms](#). These show the criteria used.

### 4. How do we arrange a Level 1 assessment?

This obviously involves finding both a suitable game, and an assessor that can make it.

Matches must be 11 a side and over 60 minutes long, with a competitive element. Summer games are ideal.

If your club has a Level 1 Assessor, or Level 2 or (higher) umpire, things will be easiest to arrange. If not:

- Contact: [areclubumpiring@london.hockey](mailto:areclubumpiring@london.hockey) with details - club, the candidate's name, and possible dates

## 5. How can we show that we value and support our club umpires?

Umpires who feel part of your club are more likely to stay involved. There are many ways that this can be done.

- Support them:
  - Offer to reimburse their online course fees.
  - Offer to pay for any travel expenses.
  - Provide radios. This can be tricky if sets are shared between umpires, but they not only help accuracy on the pitch, they help umpires chat and socialise. Contact [officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey](mailto:officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey) if you need advice.
  - Make sure your umpires know of [London's umpire welfare reporting form](#), reminding them once or twice a season.
  - Get your club to also remind captains - perhaps all players - of this reporting system at least once a season.
  
- Value them:
  - Consider buying them a pair of umpiring shirts. This will make them look more professional, and is a way of showing that you value them for the long term. [England Hockey's shop can be found by logging in here](#).
  - Always thank umpires at your end of season awards.
  - Provide free entrance to club socials for anyone umpiring a lot of games.
  - Some clubs pay umpires per match. Universities have paid umpires for their games for many years. Juniors and students are likely most interested.
  - Payment isn't realistic for most clubs as a permanent option, but can help if you're desperate week to week.
  - Perhaps offer payment for a single season, but only for qualified umpires - thereby encouraging new people to become qualified.

## 6. Where can we get more advice? Who can we talk to?

- Clubs' point of contact with London Hockey is [officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey](mailto:officiatingclubliaison@london.hockey)
- <https://london.englishockey.co.uk/officiating-in-london/club-umpiring>