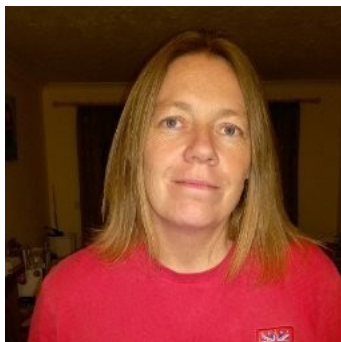


# SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Introduction from the Chair



With the new Area Leagues and playing and officiating structures taking shape across England, it is a very exciting time for hockey as we begin our new era under South Central hockey. The new League Regulations have been circulated to Clubs – everyone needs to get familiar with them – we now have one standard set of regulations for hockey across England; this was one of the objectives when we set out on this journey.

We are now waiting patiently for the new Game Management System (GMS) to be made accessible to clubs. Inevitably with any IT systems, there are delays. It doesn't matter how much you plan and test for all eventualities, issues always come to light that we didn't plan for – it's normal for an IT implementation. EH are just doing final checks on the data and making a few tweaks to the system so that its right for us when it goes live.

I don't underestimate how much work all our hockey volunteers need to do ahead of our first league fixture on 25<sup>th</sup> September. It's going to be a challenging start to the season for us all, and no doubt there will be a lot of questions and some misunderstandings, but it will take time for all of us to get

## Area Officiating Committee

As I write this we are awaiting, with baited breath, the launch of England Hockey Officiating, the club to which all umpires and match officials should belong; and also the Game Management System to allow the entry of fixtures, the appointment of match officials of all kinds, the claiming of expenses and to generally replace all that used to happen in the HUA systems in previous seasons.

There will, of course, be teething troubles, and we hope that you will all bear with us as we try to get the new systems and ways of working implemented and properly bedded in for the new season.

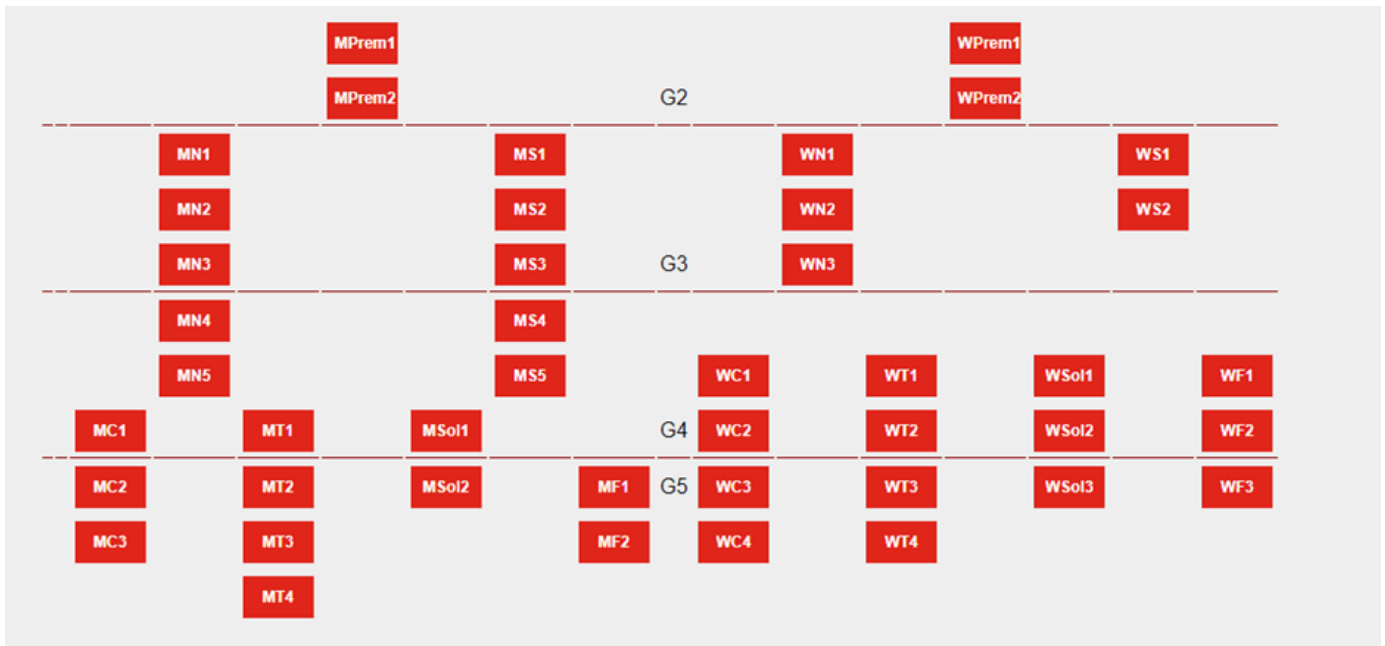
Your committee is already appointing umpires to friendly matches as teams start their pre-season routines. These appointments are being made by e-mail, and records are being kept so that these appointments can be loaded into GMS as and when it is ready, to make sure that the records of umpiring include all of these matches.

## League Rules

The new and harmonised league rules are now available, and the fact that they are at version 12 tells you all you need to know about how much work has gone into harmonising the league rules across the country!

Clubs should, of course, make sure that they are up to date with all of the new league requirements, and be aware of which grades their matches are at, as the requirements differ according to grade.

Just as a reminder the grades of matches in the South Central Area are shown here:



Match start times are covered in rule 6.3:

Grade	Time – Sep & Oct, Mar & Apr	Time – Nov-Feb	Under floodlights
Grade 1	1130 – 1500 hrs	1130 – 1430 hrs	1630 hrs at the latest
Grade 2	1130 – 1500 hrs	1130 – 1430 hrs	1630 hrs at the latest
Grade 3	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest
Grade 4	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest
Grade 5	1000 – 1500 hrs	1000 – 1430 hrs	1730 hrs at the latest

Hospitality (6.6) is to be made available to visiting teams and umpires and match officials.

Match sheets will now be managed electronically, via the new Game Management System (GMS), so everyone should be aware of the need to register players onto the new system. Umpires are also required to be members of the England Hockey Officiating club and to be recorded on the match sheet.

Rules relating to umpires and match officials can be found in section 11 of the new league rules.

Where umpires are appointed then responsibility for appointing those umpires rests with the SC Area Officiating Committee, with the lead appointer being Allan Notman (who can be contacted on [leadappointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:leadappointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey)). League fixtures will be pre-loaded onto GMS by EH (we hope!) but if you have any pre-season friendlies, or other non-league games coming up and you are looking for umpires then please contact Allan, or myself (Simon Milford on [chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey)), and we'll see what we can do.

Umpire levels per grade of match:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable level of accreditation as minimum (where agreed by ALMC)	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required
Who to conduct appointments	NPUA	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No	No	No	No* (unless agreed by ALMC and opposition captain)	Yes

Rule 11.1.1 assumes that the home team will appoint both umpires, unless the away team requests to provide an umpire.

FIH Rules of Hockey – as in previous seasons the only changes to the standard FIH rules of hockey (which are now published via the Rules of Hockey app) are that:

- Quarters will not be used (other than in the England Hockey Grade 1 league games and Adult Tier 1 championships) and so two halves of 35 minutes will be used
- Time will not be stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire)
- Corner flags are not required.

## Membership of England Hockey Officiating

As has previously been published, by EH, the new England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club will have several membership options:

Gold membership – for umpires who intend to take regular neutral appointments, from their chosen Area(s).

Silver membership – for umpires who will mostly be umpiring for their local club, but who may wish to undertake a handful of appointed neutral matches in a season (and so the Silver membership also includes insurance cover).

Bronze membership, for umpires who will be umpiring for their club.

Umpires who are keen to progress their umpiring, but do not yet feel able to commit to regularly umpiring neutral appointed matches, should consider the Silver membership, as this will offer the option of seeking coaching and development assistance from the Area. Umpires who are able to commit to more neutral appointments, and wish to progress their umpiring career towards higher level matches, should choose the Gold option.

## Developing your Umpiring

No matter what level you are, and which kind of matches you umpire, there are always opportunities to improve. Most clubs will have a Club Umpire Developer, who you can ask for coaching and assistance, or you can contact the Area development team (lead by Ginette Tessier, who can be contacted on [leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey)) and we will see what help we can offer.

There are many resources available to umpires; the EH Hockey Hub for example has a range of sections to help umpires; there are many Facebook groups dedicated to umpiring (search on Facebook for the Level 1 hockey umpires forum, search for fhumpires on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter; or for Umpires Whistle again on Facebook.

If Club Umpire Developers need further assistance then they too should contact the Area to see what assistance is available. We are always keen to help!

We still have a vacancy for the Lead Club Liaison

## Club Liaison

post (many thanks for Graeme, Emma and Charles who have already volunteered to help with the club liaison role at the local level) but we could do with a volunteer or two to take on the Lead role. Please get in touch if you feel able to help.

Benefit of Membership	Bronze Membership Free	Silver Membership £15	Gold Membership £30
Access to "free" content on the Hockey Hub	✓	✓	✓
Quarterly Newsletters from EHO & Area Officiating Committees	✓	✓	✓
Priority Window Access to all GB / ENG senior International match tickets	✓	✓	✓
Priority Window Access to EH Competition Finals tickets	✓	✓	✓
Invites to National Development Days	✓	✓	✓
Insurance	✗	✓	✓
Undertake occasional Independent Appointments within Area / National	✗	✓	✓
Undertake regular Independent Appointments within Area / National	✗	✗	✓
Receive "on match" coaching and assessing	✗	✗	✓
Support in building a "Personal Development Plan" to help you develop	✗	✗	✓
Unlimited Access to the Members Area on the HockeyHub for enhanced offering of video library and support materials	✗	✗	✓
Unlimited access to workshops	✗	✗	✓
Discounted rate for National Development Days	✗	✗	✓

Role	Name	E-mail contact
Chair	Simon Milford	<a href="mailto:Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Vice Chair	Alan Dow	<a href="mailto:ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
TAP Lead	David Rigby	<a href="mailto:LeadTAP.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadTAP.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Lead Appointer	Allan Notman	<a href="mailto:LeadAppointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadAppointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Lead Developer	Ginette Tessier	<a href="mailto:Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Club Liaison	TBD	<a href="mailto:Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Young Umpires	Chris O'Hagan	<a href="mailto:LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>

## Operations update



Those of you who have joined our Facebook page will no doubt see that we have created a sub page specially for clubs to discuss and arrange friendly games before the

league starts. It's also there for clubs to discuss games or make arrangements with each other. We've seen a positive response with the number of people and clubs joining. So please invite your players and umpires to boost the members.



### South Central Hockey Adults Section

Public group - 303 members



Don't forget we also have a twitter stream. Already clubs are contacting us via this feed.

All our social sites are monitored so if you wish to ask us anything you will get a quick reply, as those of you who have asked for the league regulations found.

If you would like a copy of the agreed League Regulations which are now available, write your request to: [operations@southcentral.hockey](mailto:operations@southcentral.hockey)

#### STANDARD LEAGUE REGULATIONS V12 (FINAL DRAFT) For Area adoption. Note – separate regulations will be issued for Grade 1 – England Hockey League

CONTENTS (Click on to go to relevant section)

- Glossary
- Appendices
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Management
- 3. Entry into the League
- 4. The Competition
- 5. Fixture Management
- 6. Matchday Administration
- 7. Player Registration
- 8. Player Eligibility - Team Selection
- 9. Teams, match sheets & results
- 10. Dress
- 11. Umpires & Match Officials
- 12. Discipline
- 13. Postponement or Abandonment
- 14. Trophies
- 15. Failure to honour a fixture or forfeiture of a match
- 16. Breach of Regulations & Penalties
- 17. Appeal Procedure

#### GLOSSARY

In these Regulations:

**ADA** means the relevant Area Disciplinary Administrator

**AL** means the Area League. The Divisions of the overall league pyramid administered by an Area

**ALC** means the Area League Chair

**ALDS** means Area League Divisional Secretary

## Finance update



The finance team have been beavering away behind the scenes working up all the financial plans and making arrangements.

We are in good shape for the start of the season. Agreements are being reached for the charges from all the regions to make to England Hockey for Website and IT (yes we have to pay our part for the new GMS).

Insurance has been set up for the region with Bluefin's Membership+ offering (very competitive!). We have also finally set up a Bank account with Nat West Business. That proved challenging !!! 6 weeks to get an account open. Shame on Nat West.

We have also been working with the current bodies that run different parts of hockey in the South, as these bodies wind down or come under South Central Hockey banner, then the residual amounts in the bank account are either repatriated to their members or passed across to South Central.

Finally When the GMS system is up and running South Central Region will be raising invoices to all clubs for their fees for league administration and other Service South Central Hockey are offering in running hockey in the region. This will be payable by an online STRIPE system or via BACS direct to the South Central Hockey's Bank Account. Please remember any finance queries please send them to [finance@southcentral.hockey](mailto:finance@southcentral.hockey).