



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Welcome to the January 2026 Newsletter

This issue of the South Central Hockey Newsletter contains updates from:

- Discipline appointment
- Junior Hockey Competitions
- Funding Support
- EH Junior survey
- League Playoffs



We are pleased to confirm the recent appointment of James Bartrip in the role of Area Discipline Administrator. James has a wealth of hockey experience and adds this role to his existing appointer of umpires each week as well as being qualified as an NPUA umpire.

In order for us to help you we would like to remind you all to please keep all your contact details up-to-date on [GMS](#) and for those who are committee members through the [England Hockey Club portal](#). It is this method that allows us to communicate information to you.

Already James has got to grips with a backlog of emails since taking on the role and has supported the South Central Management team in ensuring better communication with clubs and umpire team when required.

James can be contacted by email:

discipline@southcentral.hockey

Junior Hockey

Club Survey - Juniors playing Competition Hockey 2026



As part of the work we are doing with the Area Junior Committees, we would like to get an understanding and feedback from all clubs around the provision of Juniors playing in Area Competitions/Leagues. This feedback will help shape the next stage of the new Junior Hockey Framework.

[Please complete this survey](#) with as much detail as you are able. If you have junior hockey players within your club that do not currently play any junior age group fixtures we would be interested in your view also.

We are happy for more than 1 person per club to complete this survey. If you have coaches or managers of teams who would value the opportunity to share their thoughts, please feel free to forward the link.

Thank you for your time.

Deadline to complete this survey - Sunday 15 February 2026

Junior Hockey

State School programmes – Area funding support

South Central Hockey supports **state school engagement** through the Junior Hockey Framework, through delivery of our annual State School tournament.

By providing an opportunity to play hockey and delivering free/subsidised hockey through outreach programmes focusing on inclusion in underserved areas; the aim is to get more kids playing hockey in schools. Akin to this, England Hockey offer teacher training and tailored programs to increase participation, particularly in primary schools.



We are keen to support club links into state schools to deliver local hockey by providing funding and support for equipment to reduce barriers for schools. By making hockey easier to deliver, providing targeted support, and ensuring engaging and fun experiences, our aim is to increase participation in state schools in our area.

We have already provided funding to three clubs in our area to purchase equipment to enable them to continue their work through their outreach programmes into state schools. Requests for funding should be sent to operations@southcentral.hockey briefly describing the initiative for which you are seeking support.



Details and event dates are on our website:

<https://southcentral.englishockey.co.uk/junior-hockey-in-the-south-central-area/schools-competitions>

Junior Hockey Survey

We are working with England Hockey to gather important feedback on the topic of Junior Hockey via the survey link below. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete and all information received will be analysed and shared with each Area as well as helping to shape the next stage of the new Junior Hockey Framework.

[Link to survey](#)



Please can we encourage you to share this survey with any coach or manager of junior teams within your club, we are happy for there to be more than one response per club.

If you do not enter any teams into the junior league, but have juniors playing within your club, we would also value your feedback so we can get an understanding of why you may not enter teams into the league.

Deadline for completion Sunday 15 February 2026

League Play-Offs

As we enter the second part of the Hockey season, there is all to play for in the league calendar. Teams are vying for the Championship. Don't forget that there is a playoff chance as well.

There will be promotion for three teams to a higher division when fed from two divisions below.



To determine the third promotion, the Adult League Management Committee will hold a play-off day on Saturday, 18 April 2026, at Aldershot Garrison, between the second-placed teams in the feeder divisions (Reg 4.5.4).

Correspondingly, at least three teams will be relegated from the higher divisions to accommodate the third promotion from the feeder leagues, depending on relegations from the National League. Further details will follow when the arrangements for the play-off day are finalised.

[Details can be found on our website](#)