



RESPONSE TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN THE AUTUMN 2022 WEST UMPIRING SURVEY

GENERAL

Many respondents asked questions about how to find more general information about umpiring

There is a considerable amount of information on the EH Hockey Hub but to access it you need to register (it's free!). The majority of links mentioned below are to that page within the Hub that unless you are registered aren't available. This is the registration link:

<https://hockeyhub.englishhockey.co.uk/?login=login&from=hockeyhub.englishhockey.co.uk/index.php%3Fpage%3Devents%26id%3D2492>

Replies will often mention a Club Umpire Developer (CUD). This is an important role in a club as they, and there can be more than one in a club, help develop umpires and guide them if they wish to progress. If your club does not have one please use this link to see what you need to do:

https://hockeyhub.englishhockey.co.uk/umpiring_info

If you need any more information on anything in this document, you are unable to arrange something through your club or you just need information email umpire_liaison@hockeywest.co.uk



UMPIRE PATHWAY & COURSES

How can I see the umpire pathway?

We have put a copy of the umpire pathway on our website at:

<https://west.englishhockey.co.uk/officiating/umpire-development>

Can we have a regular refresher course?

There is no standard/mandatory refresher course but it is hoped we can arrange pre-season meetings regarding any rule changes and general discussion on all matters umpiring.

What development training is there?

Your CUD should be able to help you with this and can always contact us via the email address in the 'preamble' as we may be able to arrange coaching for you and some colleagues if required.



Details of coaching and assessing of umpires outside of the West Neutral Pool?

Very much the same **answer** as the previous question. If you wish to move from club umpiring to the neutral panels on the North & South Sectors then contact us and we will arrange an assessment game. If you are not quite ready then we will give you an action plan and arrange another assessment for you.

How do I develop umpiring in a “safe environment” i.e. not just through match play e.g. umpire 'away day' at local club? A forum to discuss arising discussion points and rule interpretation for less experienced umpires development would be useful i.e. not dominated by 'experts' but more of a mentoring/coached forum to aid learning and encourage - no question is a stupid question.

We have done 'away days' and they have proved very successful. They general revolve around a group of umpires watching a game with appointed umpires and then a couple of games with umpire coaching. We can certainly look at a forum and your point about 'experts' is noted. The Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/west.hockey.officiating for umpires is also a good place to pose a question or ask advice.

LEVEL 1

How do I get level 1 assessed so I can be qualified? Who can assess for Level 1, how can I organise it?



The Umpire Pathway document on the website at: <https://west.englishockey.co.uk/officiating/umpire-development> will hopefully give you all the answers. Your CUD will be able to arrange an assessor or contact us using the email address in the 'preamble'

How do we get support to develop new L1s after doing their online courses?

Every club should have a CUD and you should talk to them to see what support they can give. If that's not possible or they are unable to deliver what is needed then we can look to deliver some coaching either individually or at a club group session (subject to resources).

How often should umpires at L1 be reassessed? Why doesn't the system have a mechanism to review poor umpires and remove their qualifications?

There is no requirement for umpires to be re-assessed at L1 and a qualification cannot be removed.



LEVEL 2

How do I develop beyond level 2?

Development for those at L2 is managed by the West Selection Committee. We endeavour to assess and coach L2 umpires on Saturday league matches and identify those with potential to progress to level 3. Where an individual wants to advance and is deemed to be

ready they will need to take a fitness test to demonstrate the required level of fitness for L3 and we will arrange for a L3 assessor to watch them on a West Premier match to confirm our view that they are ready to advance. If deemed ready they will be nominated to NPUA for L3 assessment.

COACHING & ASSESSING

How often should coaches and assessors be re-assessed?

There is no requirement for reassessment of assessors. Assessment is a subjective activity. When practical, we endeavour to arrange a “convergence day” each season when we organise for all the L2 assessors to watch the same game(s) and then discuss the umpire performances to try to ensure that there is a common approach to situations.

Candidate assessors will have a minimum of three matches working along-side an existing assessor before they venture out alone.

When umpires are watched to potentially move up from L1 to L2, if they fail an assessment we will endeavor to ensure they are watched by a different assessor on a subsequent match.

GMS

Can we abandon GMS?

Regrettably no, this is a national provision and integrates the eight areas with NPUA.



COMMUNICATIONS

How can communications be improved?

We can email umpires via GMS but have to be careful not to overdo it so people start to ignore them and EH do not want this to be misused.



We will look at using the West website for news items and are looking at a regular newsletter. Please look at the Officiating section of the website from time to time.

<https://west.englishockey.co.uk/officiating>

There is also social media www.facebook.com/groups/west.hockey.officiating & twitter.com/WestHockeyOfcls

Can we have more webinars / forums etc?

Yes we can, would like to hear from you what subjects you would like.

Will you communicate with all umpires with newsletters?

This is something we are currently looking at doing although it needs a volunteer to compile and edit a draft newsletter.

How do we know who does what in the area?

The area website sets out contact details. We will extend the list of contacts where we can.

<https://west.englishockey.co.uk/officiating/officiating-contacts>

Are there any videos on different aspects of the rules of hockey?

The hockey hub has a selection of videos about officiating matters that can be found at: <https://hockeyhub.englishockey.co.uk/officiating> You will need to register and there are details in the 'preamble' as to how to do this.



PAYMENT & EXPENSES FOR UMPIRES

Should neutral umpires be paid? A match fee would surely encourage more to join the pool.

Any proposal to pay umpires would need to be agreed nationally. Unlike lower level football or rugby the cost of hire of artificial grass pitches is significantly higher than the cost of hiring grass pitch so the cost per player for the facility is already higher than in those sports.

If umpires were paid would players regard them as professional, not volunteers, and expect every decision to be correct. Would umpires who are already concerned about abuse not be subjected to even more – just look at football.....

YOUNG UMPIRES

Can there be a more structured way of communicating with U18 umpires and giving them umpiring opportunities with reasonable notice?

The official communications channel will continue to be GMS, however we do acknowledge that the requirements for all U18 players to be managed in the system by a responsible adult makes this a challenging channel.

We have established social media channels to support the West Region umpire community (see above). We have recently prompted England Hockey to consider how the need to better engage Junior Umpires could be included within a more wide ranging communications plan.



If you're aged 12-21 and are either an active Junior Umpire or are considering umpiring as an opportunity to learn and develop please contact our Young Umpire Lead, James Makepeace at Makepejs@yahoo.co.uk.

How can we make it easier for junior umpires to gain experience?

Our focus for the 2022/2023 season will be to support the In2Hockey competition within the region by providing nominated junior umpires wherever possible. Our aspiration is for all officials at the Regional finals to be representatives from the junior umpire community with an intent to nominate individuals from this group for the National Finals.

Looking beyond the 2022/2023 season the aspiration is to create a model for junior umpire training and development based on approaches adopted in some areas of the West Region.



RULES & REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

How can we inform umpires about the rules governing the various competitions. E.g. how long can a match be delayed for the late arrival of the visiting team; what is the minimum number of players a team has to have on the pitch before forfeiting a match; in Cup competitions, what happens when a game is drawn (penalties or shuttles, how many etc)?



The regulations for adult championships (men's, women's and mixed) can be found on the England Hockey website here:

<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/championships/england-hockey-club-championships/adult-club-championships>

The regulations for the West League can be found here:

<https://west.englishockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>

COMMUNITY

There was talk of club clusters – what is happening with these?

The cluster leads pursued last season did not provoke sufficient responses so we are looking at other ways of engaging locally with clubs.

How can we get a sense of belonging now the County HUAs have gone?

Some counties have co-opted an umpire representative onto their General Committee to maintain the link between the county and their umpires. All we can do is try and make sure every umpire in the Area knows who to contact if they need advice or help.

MATCH TIMES

How can we work more closely with clubs to organise start times so people can get from one fixture to another. Eg play at one venue and then umpire at another?

Clubs will generally organise their pitch booking to ensure they can field full teams. Having seen the work that goes into scheduling the fixtures each season to add another variable into that would be very difficult.



Can clubs that only have two teams be allowed to play league matches at home on the same weekend wherever possible. Umpires are generally found from existing players, but players are not prepared to even do the training because they know it will mean they will likely be asked to miss a league match they could be playing in order to umpire a game?

We would encourage clubs to lobby the league as soon as possible so consideration can be given before the new season fixtures are determined.

We have passed on these comments to the league.

ENGLAND HOCKEY OFFICIALS

Please clarify the requirements for Bronze, Silver & Gold membership of EH Officiating scheme. What is needed for club umpiring and what is needed to umpire in the neutral pool?



In summary:

Bronze – only umpiring games for your club.

Silver – umpiring games for a club where you are not a member and up to six neutrally appointed games per season.

Gold – taking regular neutral appointments.

For further information, please contact England Hockey

APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

Why can't appointments be made further in advance?

We have to appoint on a tiered basis so that we can determine which umpires are available and not taken to a higher level. This means appointments are made in this order for weekends and each appointer below NPUA has to wait for the preceding group's appointments to be finalized before publishing their own:

- 1 NPUA
- 2 Area L2 umpires Prem and Div 1 (where possible)
- 3 Area North and South Sectors Div 1 and lower (where possible)
- 4 Other divisions