



Midlands Area Officiating Committee

Umpire's Welcome Pack

Welcome to independent umpiring in the Midlands Area.

This document is designed to help you understand the procedures for appointing, taking appointments, obtaining kit, claiming expenses etc.

General Information

There are two main areas to obtain information:

The first is the **Midlands Hockey Area Website** <https://midlands.englishhockey.co.uk>

Once on the website, click on 'Officiating' at the top of the page. There are two main areas of interest:

- 1. Appointments & Panels** – General information on the appointing process and a list of Umpire Panels where you will find which panel(s) you are appointed to (*click on the downward arrow next to Midlands Officiating Officials*)
- 2. Officiating Documents** – here you will find all sorts of information, including
 - Guide on to how to use GMS – entering availability, appointments, checking match details, entering & submitting expenses etc.
 - Selection policy and how to progress as an umpire
- 3. Area Discipline** – Covers national discipline code, Red Cards etc.

Please browse through the documents and, if you have any questions, please direct these to your Panel Lead

The second is **Game Management System (GMS)** <https://gms.englishhockey.co.uk/>

GMS is used to collect Umpire Availability, make appointments, provide performance reports on umpires, enter travelling expenses for appointments and claim them. It is also used to disseminate information to independent umpires and umpire support regarding development opportunities, member meetings and other news.

GMS also has its own Support Hub, which tells you how to change your details, claim expenses*, enter availability etc. We ask that you review information relating to officials so that you have a better understanding of the system.

If you have not already joined, you will also find other interesting information on the England Hockey Hockey Hub (you will need to register)

*please refer to 'Expenses' heading later in these notes

Panel Leads

All our umpires are assigned to a panel upon joining (see above). Panel leads are assigned to each panel and should be the first point of contact if you have any questions. Contact details are set out below:

Panel	Panel Lead	email	Telephone
Women's A	Josh Robinson	josh@josh.co.uk	07709 913253
Women's B	Josh Robinson	josh@josh.co.uk	07709 913253
Women's C	Rob Crosson	robrosson@outlook.com	07779 224551
Women's Candidate & Reserves	Rob Crosson	robrosson@outlook.com	07779 224551
Men's A	Colin Jones	colinsgjones@gmail.com	07970 107526
Men's B	Colin Jones	colinsgjones@gmail.com	07970 107526
Men's C	Bill Holdforth	holdforth2@hotmail.com	07771 852873
Men's Candidate & Reserves	Rob Crosson	robrosson@outlook.com	07779 224551

Appointments

Appointments for League matches and EH competitions are made by our Appointments Lead, currently Jerry Yates appointments@midlands.hockey m 07971 173423

Appointments are made via GMS based upon the availability you have entered into the system. You will receive an email confirming appointments, together with contact details for the clubs and colleagues.

The home club should contact you by the Wednesday prior to the game, to confirm details. If they fail to contact you, please make contact with them and report the matter. If, after receiving an appointment, you find that you can no longer fulfil this, please telephone the home club, your colleague and Jerry Yates to inform them. This is especially important if you have to cry off at short notice. Emails or text messages may not be read.

We also appoint to midweek BUCS (University) matches on Wednesdays. If you would like to be appointed to these matches, please enter availability and contact our BUCS appointer David Last davidslast@aol.com m 07967 561988

Expenses

We will re-imburse expenses incurred in travelling to/from appointments. This will be at the current mileage rate for motorists (currently £0.35 per mile) or the cost of public transport (bus/tram/train), which will be the cost of a second class return ticket. Taxi fares will not be re-imbursed unless previously agreed.

Parking fees incurred at venues may be reclaimed via expenses. We will not re-imburse any parking fines incurred for non-payment of fees or breaches of venue Parking Regulations.

We do not pay for use of the Midlands Toll Road, nor Congestion/Clean Air Zone charges unless prior approval has been given.

Specifically, if appointed to matches at Loughborough University, you must have pre-registered your car to qualify for free parking (we suggest that you register for a period up to

31 May in any year. This will cover all Midlands League matches and any EH KO competitions to which we appoint after the end of the regular league season.

Link to register <https://forms.office.com/e/fffwcJg7Zn>

In order to minimise admin, we ask that in general, umpires claim their expenses twice a season; once prior to Christmas and then again at the end of the season (if you want to claim solely at the end of the season, that's OK as well). We recognise that this might cause hardship to some members. If you are affected by this, please contact Colin Jones, so that alternative procedures can be agreed

A synopsis of expenses and procedures can be found elsewhere in this section of the website.

Equipment

Radios

If you are taking regular appointments, we will issue you with an umpire radio, plus headset etc. to enable communication with your colleague. This remains the property of Midlands Hockey and must be returned when you leave Midlands Hockey Officiating.

Shirts

Umpiring shirts can be ordered via [Hockey Hub](#) . The cost is £35 per shirt to include Area badge on sleeve and umpire name on the back. Shirts need to be purchased by individuals but, upon production of a receipt, Midlands Hockey will subsidise the cost of Amber and Green shirts by £25 per shirt. You will need to order and then reclaim the cost by sending a copy of the receipt to Colin Jones (email as above)

Umpire Training

Midlands Hockey generally runs two umpire training evenings during a season: one at the beginning of the season and the second in early January. All umpires taking neutral appointments are entitled to attend. Invitations are sent out via email at the appropriate time.

In addition, during the season, we hold a number of online events, typically lasting an hour where we will answer discuss incidents that have occurred in your matches and, hopefully, provide answers.

In conclusion

We hope that this provides you with a brief introduction to appointed umpiring within Midlands.

Many of us have been doing this for years and know the system inside out but for newcomers, this will not be the case. Hopefully this guide will point you in the right direction in finding the information that you may need but if it doesn't, please contact any of the people whose details appear above, and they will be happy to help you.

V3 Sept 2025