



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

Dear Club

London Hockey has requested that England Hockey clarify the arrangements regarding the Area and Sub Area ('County') arrangements within London with specific reference to Membership fees.

Historically clubs have paid for all or some of the following services from organisations.

- Affiliation/Membership fees
- Adult & Junior League fees
- Officiating appointment fees and or levies
- Direct competition entry fees e.g. Indoor
- Fines

Prior to this season, there were a variety of different approaches to paying these fees, which was dependent on the Region or County that a club belonged to.

In some instances, counties collected fees on behalf of the Region, in others, payments were made direct to the Region. League fees were paid direct to Leagues or to counties and Umpiring Associations could be a member of a county association, or independent. Male and female adult league teams were often governed separately and charged accordingly.

In the *Structure Fit for the Future* proposals that were overwhelmingly supported by clubs, it was made clear that every club would be a member of all the following organisations: the relevant Sub Area (or County), the relevant Area, and England Hockey. The different roles and responsibilities of each were clearly defined in the proposals [Link Here](#)

As Areas were established the aim was to reduce the number of organisations that clubs and organisations were required to pay, thereby increasing efficiency for club administrators and giving more coherence and visibility over time of the financial administration of the game.

When London was created as an Area it was defined by the London Metropolitan Area and clubs were automatically made a member of the Area. Due to the unique nature of London the new Area also took on the responsibility of the 'Sub Area' or County as the County structure which is in place elsewhere in the country does not fit coherently within London.

Collectively the 8 new Areas and England Hockey recognised that some clubs on the boundaries may want to continue to play Adult League Hockey in an adjoining Area for either historical allegiances or

because of specific travel issues and so a small number of clubs were allowed to move Area membership.

However, due to the responsibility and functions related to role of the Sub Area; specifically, the need to retain coherent boundaries for junior competition at all levels and school and junior development, the movement of clubs between Sub Areas or Counties has never been considered appropriate and therefore clubs allocated to their relevant Sub Area cannot move.

Sub Area membership fees invoiced by London are due and if unpaid by the start of next season may impact your ability to play in any Area league or competition.

Clubs will have the right to vote and or be consulted on the appropriate matters including fees at the London Area AGM (depending on their future Area and Sub Area membership status). This is consistent with all other clubs around the country where clubs are direct members of their Area and Sub Area (County) and pay fees to both organisations to ensure the provision and delivery of the relevant responsibilities. In London all these responsibilities are integrated and delivered by London Hockey acting as both Area and Sub Area organisation.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact areas@englandhockey.co.uk

Best wishes

Rich Beer

