

South Central Hockey

Area Officiating Committee



**SOUTH CENTRAL
HOCKEY**

AREA OFFICIATING COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2024

1 Introduction

Following the closing down of the various County Hockey Umpire Associations, which have been superseded by the South Central Area, we now have funds to use to support the development of officiating throughout the South Central Area.

We need to address a number of problems related to Officiating, which are common across all of the 8 Areas within England Hockey (and more widely). These main problems can be summarised as:

- a. The vast majority of games within South Central are umpired by club umpires, with appointed umpires accounting for a low percentage of matches (maybe 5 or 10%)
- b. The age demographic of umpires tends to be towards the older end of the age range, leaving us facing an increasing umpire shortage as the current cohorts age and retire from umpiring
- c. There is a significant disparity between the genders when it comes to the numbers of active umpires.

The South Central Area Officiating Committee has responsibility for supporting officiating across all clubs in the South Central Area and it not only here to manage the umpires who operate at the appointed level.

Given that we have completed a couple of seasons of operating as the AOC for South Central, we now have a better understanding of the finances involved in operating “business as usual” and now we are able to turn our attention to how we can best support officiating throughout the Area.

To that end we are inviting South Central clubs to bid for funds, from the Area Officiating Committee, to be used to support club based projects to develop officiating.

2 Proposals

We invite, therefore, clubs to consider how they can best support the development of officiating within South Central.

We would like to see project plans, outlining the activities to be undertaken, the timescales of the project, the expected outcomes, and the methods of performance assessment to show how successful the project has been.

Specifically, these funds are intended to be used for:

- a. the development of club umpires, both in terms of numbers and quality
- b. the development of junior umpires
- c. the development of female umpires.

We would also look well on projects which involve multiple clubs so that the benefits can extend beyond single clubs.

Project plans should be submitted to the Chair of the Area Officiating Committee (Simon Milford, chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey) with details as identified above.

The AOC will assess the submitted proposal and will decide which, if any, offer good value for money and are likely to have a significant impact in addressing those concerns identified above.

Projects which are likely to lead to ongoing umpire development, in future seasons, will be looked upon favourably.

Projects which seem to be aimed solely at capital purchases, such as radios or umpire shirts, are unlikely to be successful, although those elements may form part of a larger project.

We are not specifying the format that we expect to see but we do need to be able to gain an understanding of the various items listed – activities, timescales, outcomes, assessment methodology – as well as understanding whether funding will come from other sources (such as joint funding across a group of clubs, sponsors, and so on).

3 Timescales

We would like to see proposals from clubs before the end of October 2024, with a view to projects being run initially across the remainder of the 2024/24 season.

Projects which run across multiple seasons will also be considered.

We would seek to award funding once projects have been assessed, which is likely to be in the period between the end of October up to the Christmas break at the end of 2024.