



# SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

## Welcome to the September 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the South Central Hockey September Newsletter.

### In this newsletter you will find:

- Finance
- Season start 2025-26
- Junior Section update
- Adult Leagues update
- Operations
- Officiating

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.

## Finance/Treasurers

If you are new to the role this season, please ensure you look out for our invoices.

It would be helpful if you could send your club & email address to [finance@southcentral.hockey](mailto:finance@southcentral.hockey) for clarity.

Annual Membership and League fees invoices will be sent out soon - please pay by return if you can !

## Start of the season

The new league season is upon us and judging by all the Social media posts we see, clubs the length and breadth of the South Central Hockey area are well prepared for the matches ahead.



Club days and mini tournaments have been taking place and the top teams have been in training for many weeks. Clubs have been busy recruiting players for the new season with several incomings and outgoings. Squads have come together and building up match fitness and patterns of play for the first league games which started on 13th September. Fixtures are all available to see on the South Central website. Follow your team, see the results, your table positioning and head to head results [here](#):

Umpires too have been busy in the close season and keeping fit to keep up with the games.

Also please keep all your contact details up-to-date on [GMS](#) and for those who are committee members through the [England Hockey Club portal](#).

## Junior Section



League fixtures now on GMS and the [South Central Website under the junior pages](#) for all U14-U18 teams

We have had a busy summer putting together the fixture programme for the junior leagues. Unfortunately, we have had to make the usual adjustments for team withdrawals which is frustrating for everyone. We hope that no league will be too adversely affected by these. We need you to keep us updated with matches that get postponed, changed or cancelled. T1 and T2 matches will need team sheets and remember if T1U16 fixtures finish in a draw, a shootout (not P flicks!) is required.

We would like to improve what we do and how we deliver junior hockey in the SC Area. To do this we need more help with running the leagues and checking team sheets monitoring results. We need additional help with U16 and U14 leagues. Ideally, we need help with organising league play offs at the end of the season too. Please contact Kate [chair.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey](mailto:chair.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey)

An initiative we would like to develop is a series of summer tournaments for our clubs, at U14 and U16 again we will need a volunteer for this. The idea is to have fun whilst developing teams for the following season. This is especially relevant in U14 age group where U13 players are stepping up to 11 aside hockey for the first time.

School competitions are underway now for the girls and T1 U14, U16 and U18 competitions, county rounds for the other girls competitions should also be taking place soon. We plan to run a state school tournament again next year on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Reading and Sonning Hockey Clubs. Last year was a huge success which we hope to build on this year. We would love to host a tournament in the north of the Area but do need a 2 pitch venue. Please get in touch if you can help with this.



All clubs should be trying to develop young umpires. If you have any who are particularly keen and competent we can offer them further development at the SC In2Hockey Area Finals at the end of the season. We will be sending you requests nearer the time.

It's a long way off, however we will be looking for someone/a couple of people to organise the In2Hockey Finals. Last year Judith Barton and Kate Porter took it on, but both already have ridiculous amounts of hockey responsibility on their plates and don't really need the extra work involved in running and organising this.



## Adult Leagues

A number of teams started their league on 13th September. Withdrawal of teams have already started and will, no doubt, continue.



This is the result of clubs overstretching themselves as they have to get teams into the system early, so that pitch bookings can be done before the schools take their summer break.



The Adult Leagues Management Committee (ALMC) will be looking into the situation in more detail to see if a later date is feasible.

During the season clubs will be invited to look at the Adult League Regulations via a shared document so they can make comments on what amendments are needed for season 2026-27.

Clubs are reminded to keep their team contacts up to date on GMS and websites, so that the opposition can make contact when needed for fixtures and locations.

## Operations

The new league season is now upon us and judging by all the Social media posts we see, clubs the length and breadth of the South Central Hockey area are well prepared for the matches ahead.

You may well have seen the match reports from Basingstoke HC who provide this to us to publish on our website and social media. This service is available to all clubs who email [operations@southcentral.hockey](mailto:operations@southcentral.hockey)

Follow your team, see the results, your table positioning and head to head results on our website [here](#):

Please keep all your contact details up-to-date on [GMS](#) and for those who are committee members through the [England Hockey Club portal](#).

### Trans Policy

There has been some confusion regarding any questions clubs might have regarding the Transgender Policy and we thought it may be useful to clarify the process. We would ask clubs to direct any questions to [trans.policy@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:trans.policy@englandhockey.co.uk) where each one will be considered individually. Final para might be better with something like - Any questions or queries sent to SC Hockey will be passed on to England Hockey for action.



There may be times where England Hockey then have to make the Area / League aware and ask for further information, but that will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

We have reiterated the point that that should we at South Central Hockey receive any questions / queries that they will be passed onto England Hockey for action.

## Selection Exception Form

There is an updated process for Selection Exemptions. The information can be found on [our website](#)

## Regulations and Summary of Changes

Clubs should be aware of the changes to regulations for this season. The information is available on [our website](#).



## England and GB appointment

England Hockey is pleased to announce the appointment of Rich Beer as its new Chief Executive Officer. Beer has stepped up from his role as Sport and Development Director and has taken on his new role from 1st September 2025. Alongside this, Beer will also become Chief Operating Officer of Great Britain Hockey.



Beer has been with England Hockey for 12 years, playing a central role in shaping the sport's future. He has led transformational initiatives including the development of Big Stadium Hockey, the successful bid to host the EuroHockey Championships in 2027, the ground breaking facilities loan scheme, and the recent membership model changes.

## Officiating

### Umpire shortage

We are already seeing a shortage of umpires right across the Area, and at every level. The area cannot magically produce umpires – they come from club based development activities.

But the South Central Hockey can help – if we know that clubs need help. Last season we sent our Hit Squad to several clubs to help with umpire coaching on training nights and we are very happy to do the same again this season. Already Wycombe HC and Amersham HC have made enquiries. So do please get in touch with us and we'll do our best to help.

If you have young umpires we are also keen to help. We coached several young umpires at the Hampshire Development Centre days which, again, was very successful. But we need more opportunities like this to help develop younger umpires.

### Red cards

Hopefully there won't be many this season but, if there are, there is a new process which has been introduced by England Hockey.

All forms and information can be [found here](#).

The new regulations can be [found here](#): There is a new web based form to complete when a red card has been issued, or when a misconduct complaint is to be raised (remembering that a red card can now be awarded up to 30 minutes after the completion of the game).

There is a new checklist for people issuing a red card or making a misconduct complaint, which can be [found here](#):

As always, if you have issued a red card or intend to make a misconduct complaint, please contact the Area Discipline administrator as soon as possible – [discipline@southcentral.hockey](mailto:discipline@southcentral.hockey).

## Monday Mixers

These discussion forums have returned.

The link is always available on the [umpiredev.co.uk](http://umpiredev.co.uk)