



LONDON OFFICIATING NEWS, UPDATES & TIPS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LONDON OFFICIATING COMMITTEE 2024-25

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome one and all. We hope you had a fantastic start to the season, going forward the team intends to send out a regular monthly newsletter where any appropriate updates and news will be shared.

I (Peter Mackintosh) have taken over from Tim Forte and we thank him for his leadership of LHO over the last three seasons. There are various other committee changes with new post-holders



(see News and Updates with full committee list on the London Hockey website). There are also changes to the regime for Red Cards, MMOs and Disreputes, as well as a new Code of Conduct (more on this next time).

At the performance level (Grade 2) there we have declining numbers of umpires taking appointments at Grade 2. We need to ensure that we identify talented umpires, who could take appointments at Grade 2 and could even be future National League umpires. It is vital that we ensure that umpires can do appointments around their other commitments. Please reach out to Graeme Hope as Appointing Lead if you are interested in taking appointments

In addition, we need to work with clubs who participate in Grade 2 to both improving their umpires in their club to be able to do Grade 2 games when we can not appoint but also helping the teams involved to ensure they understand what the umpires on those games are attempting to do.

CONTINUE READING →

At grassroots level, there remain difficulties around sufficient umpires being available at club level, and we are working with the main Area League Management Committee to increase umpiring numbers, to ensure clubs can provide the correct quality and accreditation of umpires for their games and provide clubs with the tool kit to improve all of their umpiring resources.

Sadly, issues persist around respect for umpires and we are committed to ensure that umpires have the resources to report issues of misconduct. On the flip-side, we also must be clear that clubs have a route to give constructive feedback about umpires to improve quality and ensure teams feel that they are not just heard but listened to. We look forward to tackling these challenges head on, building towards a successful season.

Of course, we are keen that our actions will lead to everyone involved in hockey having a successful and enjoyable season.

NEWS & UPDATES

- We are pleased that Adam Fleming has agreed to be Appointing Assistant and Rob Butlin has agreed to be Indoor Lead and will manage the indoor umpiring within London. A full list of the committee can be found on the London Hockey Website.
- London Hockey Officiating has set up a Whatsapp community that is free for anyone to join <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Log454dJZqm7Qx7AkABq9D>
- The new England Hockey Officiating Shirts produced by Mizuno are now available for purchase on the England Hockey site. We completely understand if umpires prefer to use their old kit for now but when it comes to replace your current kit we think the new shirts are great (especially the Blue). <https://store.englishockey.co.uk/>
- We will be hosting an online meeting on 7th December 2024 as a catch up at the end of the first half of the season.

READ ABOUT NPUA & EHO UPDATES →

NPUA NEWS & EHO NEWS

London Hockey Officiating are delighted that Gareth Hinds & Stephen Mason have both passed their NPUA assessment. They are now full members of the NPUA.

We are also delighted for our members who have moved up in panels at the start of the season and wish our NPUA members continued success.

England Hockey Officiating held it's first national conference in September which was held in Nottingham and was well attended. This hopefully lead to more consistency between areas and stronger links.

GRASSROOTS / CLUB SUPPORT (GRADE 3 AND BELOW)

Georgia in conjunction with Paul Creeley, Mark Langley and David Lloyd Williams have been doing excellent work on the club strategy.

We have a good state of the idea of the umpiring within clubs and have initiatives in progress or development to aid clubs developing their umpires.

- The club self surveys which allows an accurate picture of club skill levels CUDDs / Coaching days to upskill clubs
- Radios to clubs to allow them to mentor umpires and better communication for umpires.
- The establishment of club umpiring ambassadors who will have groups of clubs they work with to improve their umpiring.
- Rolling out a new level 1 process and sorting out level 1 assessors to have a dedicated workforce
- Forms for feedback on umpires which will allow monitoring of clubs and us to be able to act in real time
- Incorporating best practice from other areas calls with clubs to start low level engagement



CONTINUE READING →

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to everyone who has been promoted, place on a panel or successful at your umpire support award so far this season.

WOMEN'S B PANEL

★ THOMAS HARRIS

★ ALEX PARISH

MEN'S B PANEL

SAM DURDLE ★

MUIRIS CAPON-TELFORD ★

COUNTY UMPIRE DEVELOPERS

★ LISA JOBSON

★ DOMINIC SMITH

★ THOMAS JOHNSTON

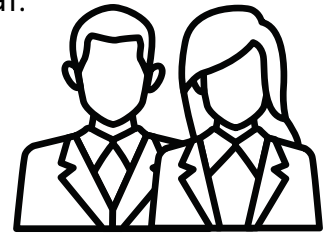
10 TOP TIPS FOR GAME MANAGEMENT

As an official, your main goals are to keep the game safe, fair, and professional. These tips will help you manage the game more effectively:

[READ OUR 10 TOP TIPS FOR GAME MANAGEMENT →](#)

1. Be Professional

Prepare before the match: arrive before the game with plenty of time, communicate with the teams, wear proper kit, and inspect the field and goals. Start the game by being organised and punctual.



2. Be in the Right Spot

Proper positioning is essential: Work hard to get the best angle and ahead of the ball and stay as still as possible when making decisions.



3. Be Focused

Stay alert especially in your area of responsibility. Trust your colleague and avoid ballwatching. Don't worry if you miss small things make sure you get the important moments right.



4. Be Calm

Keep your tone neutral and avoid sarcasm when communicating with players and coaches. Stay composed and avoid escalating tensions.



5. Be Brief

During the game, keep your communication short and to the point. Focus on safety and fairness, not on winning arguments.



6. Be Open

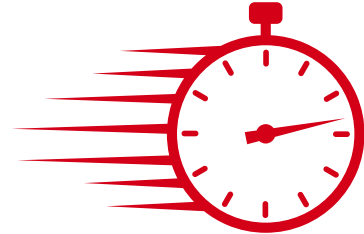
Encourage polite questions and be willing to discuss decisions. Listen to coaches but don't engage in every complaint.

CONTINUE READING →

10 TOP TIPS FOR GAME MANAGEMENT

7. Be Quick

Restart play swiftly to reduce complaints. Once the game resumes, players and coaches will focus more on the game.



8. Be Humble

Admit mistakes when they happen. A simple acknowledgment can go a long way in maintaining control and respect.



9. Be Ready to Meet the Moment

For crucial calls, look confident, embrace the moment and use clear signals. Sell the call when necessary, but don't overdo it on routine decisions.



10. Be in Control

Use a gradual approach to discipline. Start with calm warnings, but be firm when serious issues arise, like dangerous play, profanity or threats. Keep control by staying composed.



By following these principles, you can effectively manage the game and the people involved, ensuring a safer and fairer experience for everyone.

SEE YOU NEXT NEWSLETTER