



Welcome to the September 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the South Central Hockey September Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find:

- Junior Section update
- Adult Leagues update
- Selection Exemption Passes

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.

Start of the season

The new league season is nearly 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 incoming's and outgoing's. Squads are coming together and building up match fitness and patterns of play for the first league games on 21st 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 apart from T1 U16 which is directly run by England Hockey. Please remember that all T1 and T2 matches now need fully completed team sheets for all matches in the South Central League. Due to the number of dates reserved for County hockey and Cup competitions, plus varying holiday dates for private and state schools, there may be clashes (e.g. in the full divisions, later rounds of the Cup may clash with a league match). If you don't have enough fixtures - be proactive and arrange friendlies with other clubs. If you can see there will be a problem down the track due to a school event for example, be proactive to reschedule it as soon as you can. If we have a harsh winter again, those slip dates might fill quickly. (All revised dates need to be passed onto the league in advance please).

For any league without enough fixtures or full home & away rounds (i.e. 10 team divisions will play 14 rounds instead of 18), we want to create a Finals Day to close off the season. The date will be Sunday MARCH 30th - details will be confirmed and circulated before Christmas.

Please be aware that in the early rounds of T2 there may well be a clash of cup and league games. If this is the case CUP games take priority and clubs will need to rearrange their league match. This is because there aren't enough dates at this level and not every club enters the cup.

Please remember to complete GMS by the end of the Sunday your matches are scheduled to be played on.

U12 league fixtures are complete and these have been circulated directly to clubs for T1 and T2. T3 remains as the festivals either TVM or Oxfordshire/ North Bucks Clubs festivals.

Schools dates all on the [South Central website](#)

League contacts

U16 league

Contact sc.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey

U14 league

Contact U14leagues@southcentral.hockey

U18 league

Contact chair.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey

Our overarching aim should be to get matches played on the days scheduled. We want players to play hockey rather than clubs claiming the points.



Adult Leagues

Welcome to the new season, the South Central Adult Hockey League's fourth season.

On the Mens' side we welcome two new clubs - Blandford & Sturminster HC and Burford HC.

I would also like to offer a warm welcome to the new teams which have joined the league:

- Men: Alton 5, Blandford & Sturminster 1, Burford 1, Haslemere 6, Oxford Hawks 8 and Weymouth 2.
- Women: Alton 5, Andover 3, Havant 5, South Berkshire 6, Southampton University 4, Staines 4 and Winchester 5.

Good luck to all new teams in the new season.

This Letter includes information and further details on the new season; please see the attached pages for more detail. Please take the time to read the details at your leisure. However, I would like to draw your attention to the key messages for season 2024-25:-

1. The dates for the new season are [included in this document](#). Clubs need to be aware of the dates for inputting venue and start times into GMS for their home matches; rearranging games outside term time (University clubs and their opponents) and player registration.



2. There have been some changes to the Divisional Secretary team for this season: We welcome Helen Hyde, Will Green and Helen Newcombe to the team. We also thank Nicki Smith and David Hughes for their sterling work for the League, they have both decided to stand down.

The up-to-date list of Divisional Secretaries is shown in this document. [Link to section](#).

3. Clubs need to be aware of the regulations changes for this season. The regulations are on the [South Central website](#) and also a list of key changes since the 2023-4 regulations. Both can be [found here](#):

4. This season there is a new process for the Selection Exemption Pass (SXP). The process is documented on the South Central website, please see the article on this subject in the following pages.

5. The ALMC has decided that the South-Central League will not have "development" teams in season 2024-5. The ALMC will review this decision annually, based on club feedback.

6. University Fixtures please see the appropriate section for the League's position on University Fixtures in 2024-5. [Link to section](#).



7. Can I ask that all clubs ensure their contacts on GMS are up to date and include a contact for your club treasurer (including a dedicated email address, if possible). Could the club treasurer contact also be sent to finance@southcentral.hockey before the start of the season. This will greatly help the Divisional Secretaries and the League Organisation.

On behalf of the Area League Management Committee (ALMC), I hope you have an enjoyable 2024-5 season.

Best wishes,

Richard Wood

Chairman South Central Adult League



Selection Exemption Passes

Selection Exemption Pass is now a required document which clubs must complete in the event of selecting a player for a team that they are not registered for.

Forms must be completed in advance of the expectation of a player needing to be exempt from the Fair Selection Regulations for a designated period.

Section 8 and Appendix 4 of the Adult League Regulations must be consulted prior to completion of the form, and if necessary, advice sought from the relevant Divisional Secretary. The SXP must be submitted 72 hours before the start time (as recorded in GMS) of the first (or only) game for which the exemption will apply. Missing this timeline, or an incorrect naming convention, will be an immediate rejection of the request.

The form is available to [download from our website](#):

It's important to understand that all Selection Exemption Passes are subject to approval by the Adult League Management Committee, and approval is not to be assumed.

The exemption is only in place when the form is returned with approval from the ALMC. Retrospective SXPs will only be issued in very exceptional circumstances, with the explicit approval of the ALMC.

Monday Mixers

These popular discussion forums will be returning from Monday 16th September. The link is always available on the umpiredev.co.uk website (1st box on the left in the white section).