



Spotlight: Technical Officiating

This month's newsletter shines a spotlight into the multifaceted role of technical officials and the various pathways available for those looking to expand their involvement, from the English national league to the international arena.

The following articles explore the insights and experiences from your fellow technical officials:

[Understanding the Role](#): David Elcock details the responsibilities of a Match Official (MO) for the England Hockey League, covering duties from pitch checks before the game to managing substitutions and suspensions during the match.

[The Journey to Officiating](#): Hear from David Rigby on his personal experience, starting with a moment of "madness" that launched his seven-year journey officiating at national league matches and tournaments.

[A Rewarding Challenge: The EuroHockey ID Championships 2025](#): Richard Chere reflects on his deeply enriching experience as Technical Delegate for the EuroHockey ID Championships, an event requiring officials to ensure a safe, fair, and fun tournament while accommodating different rules and athlete needs.

[Progressing to the International Arena](#): Opportunities are also available to officiate at Masters tournaments within the UK, Europe, and further afield, which provide a great arena to hone technical officiating skills.

Recruiting the Next Generation of Technical Officials

The Technical Appointing Panel (TAP) relies on experienced officials like you to help find and mentor new recruits. TAP is currently looking for more personnel, especially for the indoor programme.

Do you know someone who is interested?

If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a technical official, find out more [here](#) or contact [Christine O'Donovan](#).

Starting Penalty Corners on the Whistle - Guidance



In general, the new guidance of starting a PC on the whistle has been well executed. However, EHO would like to clarify the following guidance in relation to the starting of PCs:

- Consider being proactive and concisely telling players what you expect to happen at a PC the first time you award one in your circle
- Ensure that all players are in position with protective equipment on, should they wish to use it
- Start the PC with your whistle when you are ready

Please note the following points:

- The injector is expected to play the ball without undue delay after the whistle has gone
- If you feel the injector is taking too long to play the ball, re-set the PC and make it clear to them that they need to play the ball promptly after your whistle
- Re-enforce this message before starting the next PC/re-award

Sometimes, despite the best efforts of umpires to pro-actively manage game situations, the desired outcome is not achieved. If you feel that this has occurred, then the correct decision is to reverse the PC and award a free hit defence as time wasting is considered a foul.

This, however, should be viewed as the last stage in your management toolkit after you have tried to proactively manage the situation as outlined above.

Officiating Shirts

New stock of officiating shirts is now available on the [England Hockey Officiating Store](#).

We recognise the recent delays in stock availability and are actively working to improve our ordering and fulfilment process to prevent future shortages.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding.



Introducing Our EHO Tutors

We are delighted to announce that we have recruited more EHO tutors. The application process was highly competitive, and we thank everyone who applied.

Supporting the next generation of officials

Our existing cohort of tutors has played - and will continue to play alongside our new recruits - a vital role in supporting the next generation of officials.

We extend a huge thank you to our current tutors: **Andrew Nix, Angela Lewis, Barry Anderson, Jackie Gibbs, Mark Rutherford, and Tom Roberts**.

Their core responsibilities include:

- Delivering training and education to new and current officials
- Promoting the consistent application of the Rules of Hockey

They are all passionate about officiating and committed to growing our community.

Welcoming our new tutors in the new year

We look forward to introducing our newly selected EHO Tutors - who will formally join the team in the New Year. We will share more information in the next edition of the newsletter and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our community.

Safeguarding Awareness Module: A Key Resource for Officials

As an umpire or technical official, your role goes beyond managing the game – you also help create a safe, positive environment for everyone, especially young people and vulnerable adults.

To support this, we are asking all officials to complete the free online [Safeguarding Awareness module](#) available via Hockey Hub.

Further information about the [Safeguarding Awareness module](#) can be found here, and you can complete the learning at any time by logging into your [Hockey Hub](#) account.



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