

Surbiton Hockey Club

Umpire Development Programme

Introduction

Surbiton Hockey Club is launching its new Hockey Development programme open to all players (Adults & juniors) and parents.

The first objective is to develop more umpires to Level One Umpire standard to support our teams. The new league structure and rules has greatly increased the requirement for qualified umpires and this is a very welcome step in raising hockey standards overall.

Recent Examples

We have some great examples from Sean Edwards who started with us as a junior and is now an international umpire, Simon Aldous starting as a non-playing parent and now one of our best club umpires and Andy Parker recently added to the National set up. We have a number of current juniors working on their umpiring. We also have many players umpiring as well as playing... but we need more!

The Core Plan – Umpire Level One Qualification

The Level One qualification represents the standard qualification for club umpires and the requirement for most club games. Our top four ladies and top three men's sides require higher level umpires.

This qualification is available for anyone aged 14 upwards.

The Benefits of Umpiring

For juniors, it is a great personal development option whether part of other education qualifications or helping players to understand the game from the other side of the whistle.

For parents, it does not matter if you have played the game or not, and it will add to your enjoyment and understanding when watching the game. Better than standing on the sidelines?



And for everyone, very simply it is a fantastic way to get to know your way round the club and meet more people.

The Steps for Umpire Level One Qualification

The plan is to achieve qualification from scratch within a three month period. Anyone who has umpired before will progress more quickly and the time needed may vary.

Step One - The England Hockey ("EH") Online Course comprising a Rules Test and 2 Hour Zoom Course

Step Two - Umpiring Practice (estimated at 10 games)

Step Three - Surbiton Practical 3 Hour Course (established by Andy Parker)

Step Four - Match Assessment by Level Two Umpire

This balance of courses and actual umpiring supports an umpire in learning good habits early. Both courses will be relatively early although confident umpires with some prior knowledge can umpire before.

It is not a one size fits all and we will be flexible, supportive and give feedback.

The umpiring practice will be structured to allow progression with increasing demands in terms of speed, hockey skill levels and game management (a big part of the umpire's role as he/she deals with the many characters in a hockey team).



Junior games will feature strongly for all as this allows early practice and progression to the older Colts teams as well as ability for our Saturday umpires to watch and coach.

We will also pair developing umpires with qualified umpires on games with occasional use of radios for communication (the new radios are superb and the club is starting to use them).

When the EH Online Course has been completed and enough experience gained then adult Saturday games will be umpired, again with increasing difficulty.

We will arrange Assessments when umpires are judged ready. A bit like a driving test, you may not pass first time but will learn from the experience.

Costs

The Online Course cost is £30 with no other costs for Assessment or otherwise.

Umpires' Equipment

As always, the confident well-presented umpire will in turn inspire confidence in the players. To start, it is recommended to use a brightly coloured polo shirt or top to stand out, and to have two or three alternatives in case of colour clashes with teams.

The current official colours are lime green and orange. We are waiting for these to be confirmed following the league restructuring.

The club is obtaining a supply of whistles and cards as the other two key requirements. A stop watch is also needed (using a mobile phone does not cut it - but a simple Casio wrist watch works fine!).

Other Resources

England Hockey has a great resource under 'Hockey Hub' with free self-serve material to add to your knowledge. The Surbiton Umpires Team are happy to respond to any queries and the Surbiton Umpires' WhatsApp group is both a communication tool for the team and a lively forum for topical questions.

Further Progression

The Umpire Level 2 Qualification and further progression is through joining the Umpire Circuit run by London Hockey Officiating ("LHO") in our case. LHO is newly formed and appoints umpires to our next four most senior



sides. Umpires on the circuit will umpire across clubs with training and assessment as they progress.

Under 14s

We will be looking at options for U14s in the near future.

The Umpires & Umpire Development Team

Umpire Admin - Helen Waugh

Technical Lead - Andy Parker

Umpire Development Team

Colts Liaison

Colts Fixtures Appointments Organiser

Saturday Fixtures Appointments Organisers

For more details on all things umpiring, please contact the umpiring team:

umpires@surbitonhc.com

