

Newsletter

Volume 47 December 2005



Chairman's Letter

I don't think I can remember a worse start to the season, so many games and tournaments postponed or abandoned due to inclement weather conditions. That means we are all going to be busier than ever in the New Year whilst teams try to catch up.

On the subject of weather conditions that may affect the game, I would advise that prior to the game it is wise to seek the opinions of the team captains, coaches and, if available, the groundsman

As an umpire who has never played the game I cannot always appreciate the difficulties playing in adverse weather conditions and therefore will always seek the opinion of others prior to the game. The groundsman has more knowledge than most when it comes to frozen pitches and the likelihood that they might defrost in time.

Once the game has started however, it is difficult to consult captains as to whether the game should be abandoned or not. After all one team may have a two goal advantage and therefore wish to continue regardless whilst the losing team will encourage you to call the game off. Therefore I will consider the safety aspect, are players having difficulty keeping their feet, is the ball lifting excessively because the pitch is frozen and bumpy are players having difficulty keeping hold of their sticks because of the cold. In other words is the game safe or is there a risk of serious injury due to conditions, if

the answer is yes I will consult with my colleague with a view to abandonment.

At no time do I consider the amount of time played, the most important and only question to be considered is that of safety.

Congratulations are due to several people this quarter.

Firstly congratulations to Mark Dane who has successfully gained his Level 2 umpire award.

Congratulation to those who have gained their Level 1 umpiring award, they are:

Teresa Simpson
Ruth Baker
Mo Gibbs
Thomas Chipperfield



Many thanks also to those who assisted at West tournaments especially those that had to be rearranged mid week. We are still supplying the majority of umpires for these events.

Finally I would like to wish all our members and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Peter



RE-ASSESSMENT FOR LEVEL 1 UMPIRES

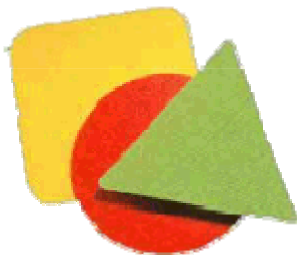
The Hockey National Governing Body requires that regional umpiring associations confirm that all their umpires are both active and competent to the recognised Level 1 standard. In Avon we achieve this by co-ordinating the issue and return of match cards and by seeing all umpires registered within the County every 4 years.

All reassessment will be co-ordinated by the County Umpiring Secretary or the person nominated by the Avon County Women's Hockey Umpires' Association (ACWHUA) Committee

- a. To show that the Level 1 umpire is active the umpire must have officiated at the minimum number of games as stipulated by National Governing Body during the current assessment year (club matches, under 18 club matches, senior or U16/U18 junior county, veterans matches, U18 inter school matches or West Tournaments may count as one game). The assessment year runs from 1st September to 31st July.
- b. Prior to the beginning of the season a card will be issued for signatures to be gained from team captains for the required number of games during the assessment year. If the completed card is not returned as directed by 15th August the name of the umpire will be deleted from the National Governing Body Level 1 Register, deemed to be inactive. This will preclude them from the WCWHA League list. The committee reserves the right to validate cards. Should the umpire wish to become active again an assessment game will be arranged by mutual agreement prior to the umpire being re-registered. A fee, as stipulated by ACWHUA committee, will be payable.
- c. To ensure competency, Level 1 umpires will be assessed once in every 4 years. Assessors will be appointed by the ACWHUA committee.
- d. If an umpire is unsuccessful at the assessment game, then another game will be arranged for further assessment with different assessors, this will be by mutual agreement. If the required standard is still not reached, then the umpires name will be taken off the National Governing Body Level 1 Register, deemed to be inactive, and therefore will be removed from the WCWHA League list. Offers of coaching will be given. Further re-assessment can only be arranged after coaching and a fee, as stipulated by ACWHUA committee, will be payable.
- e. All decisions concerning the implementation of this policy are at the discretion of the ACWHA Committee.

Please Note:

The committee member currently responsible for reassessment is Janet Wilson, should you have any questions about this article please contact her.



Website: www.acwhua.com



Tips & Tricks

Some umpires have suggested listening to music prior to the game and sometimes whilst warming up. They claim this helps to calm the nerves and focus on the need to concentrate.

Whilst warming up for the game I will always take note of the teams practising short corner routines.

When the game starts and I have given my first short corner I will be more aware of what is likely to happen and therefore adjust my positioning accordingly.

To help with concentration when the ball is at the far end, I will always keep on the move and keep making decisions in my mind. I don't however signal these decisions unless my colleague looks to me for assistance.



Should you have any tips you wish to pass on Email peter.lovell4@btinternet.com

Jane Nockolds gains a promotion

Jane Nockolds, the England Hockey NDM for Officiating, Technical & Volunteers has been promoted to the FIH List of Outdoor Hockey Umpires Managers. Jane who retired from the FIH World Panel of Umpires in 2004 is delighted to be listed as an Umpires Manager and looks forward to her new international role. "Its hard work and it's often challenging but I am delighted to have the opportunity to use the experience of 12 years of international umpiring and 10 years of working in the sport in a new and rewarding way. I look forward to not only sharing my knowledge and skills but learning a lot more too" said Jane.

Our congratulations to Jane, who started her umpiring in the West and once gave a very informative presentation to one of our open meetings.



Indoor hockey live on television

Secondly, Sky has agreed to televise the National Indoor Hockey Championships 2006 on Sky Sports. The women's and men's finals will be shown live after a round up of previous matches. The programme will last for three hours in total and be shown live on 5th February 2006. Please see TV listings nearer the time for exact channel and timing details.



Website: www.acwhua.com

COMMITTEE 2005/6



Chairman:- (<i>Chief cook & bottle washer</i>)	Peter Lovell	01275 844 875	Responsibilities: Peter.lovell4@btinternet.com Newsletter editor Database maintenance Young umpires & active sports
Secretary:- (<i>General dogsbody</i>)	Margaret Hollow		Responsibilities: hollowtreave@hotmail.com Avon Umpiring Secretary General correspondence Complaints
Treasurer:- (<i>Moneybags</i>)	Bob Pearce	0117 962 2139	Responsibilities: Bob.Pearce@adsweu.com Finances Web site maintenance
Committee:- (<i>Runners</i>)	Carolyn Britton	01454 851 182	Responsibilities: carolyn25@blueyonder.co Level 1 Umpire Courses
	Vicky Hollier	01275 880 274	Responsibilities: vicky.hollier@lafarge.com Newly qualified level 1s Venues
	Justine Nicklin	01454 851 182	Responsibilities: justine18@blueyonder.co.uk Summer league
	Liz Powell	0117 949 8571	Responsibilities: thepowells298@ukonline.co.uk Dear Marge Progression group
	Gill Prophet	0017 965 2716	Responsibilities: gill.prophet1@virgin.net Vice Chairman West Umpiring Sub Committee
	Janet Wilson	Not available	Responsibilities: Jans@wilsonj23.fsnet.co.uk Reassessment

Should you have any queries or require information please contact any member of the committee, however it would be helpful if in the first instance if you contacted the person responsible. Please also remember common courtesy i.e. no phone calls after 10pm and, if avoidable, no phone calls on Sundays



Level 1 Umpiring Course

The next level 1 umpiring course will be held at Yate Outdoor Leisure Centre. The course will be held on 3 consecutive Sundays, 15th, 22nd & 29th January 2006. Your club will have received information regarding this but should you know of anyone wishing to take up umpiring they should contact Carolyn Britton who will be pleased to assist.



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Dear Marge

Dear Marge,
I was watching a game recently attacking side awarded short corner which was taken but the ball didn't go out the "D". After the attacking side hit the ball the keeper touch it out over base line. The umpire at the end gave a 15 hit-out to the defending side. The other umpire agreeing that the ball didn't go out the "D" said it should have been a long corner to the attacking side on the basis that it didn't go in the goal ~ if it had then it would have been a 15 hit-out to defending side. Apparently its a rule which is on trial at the moment.

Graham

Dear Graham,
Firstly, there is no rule "on trial" at the moment but there is an interpretation of the short corner procedure where umpires are advised not to blow immediately if the ball does not go outside the circle at the first instance. The team may stop the ball in the circle but then take it out later before they shoot. However, if they do not take it out of the circle and bring it back in before a shot at goal, there is NO foul unless they score. Players cannot score a goal without the ball leaving the circle first; the penalty is a free hit from 16yards.

In your scenario I presume there was a shot at goal which the GK deflected over the back line. The ball did not cross the goal line therefore play carries on as normal. A long hit would be the correct decision.

This has caused a lot of discussion with umpires as it is possible for penalty corners to be given after the non penalising of the attack which then throws up the situation that the defenders are actually being disadvantaged and the attack gaining an advantage.

It will run and run!!

Dear Marge,
I was umpiring a match when I noticed that there were too many players on one team. The team were winning by one goal

If you have any questions for Marge Email them to [Liz Powell](mailto:Liz.Powell@acwhua.com) or any member of the committee.



and it seemed as though they had been playing with 12 for some time. I stopped time and reduced the number of players to 11 but was unsure of what to do about the score. Advice?

Lynne



Dear Lynne,
Well spotted!

It is difficult to monitor substitutions especially at injuries and if the teams cannot get it right it is problematical to penalise them in these situations. You did the right thing in stopping play and reducing the numbers.

However, there is nothing you can do about the score. It is unfortunate but unless you are very sure of when the extra player took to the field you cannot put the clock back. Even if you could, it would be difficult to say how you would restart – you cannot go back to the goal and give a 16yard hit; you cannot guess what the penalty would be; you have to carry on as if it never happened. Unfortunate for the team losing but it is technically an umpire error just as a missed obstruction would be.

Dear Marge,
With the inclement weather of late what is the feeling about fog causing matches to be postponed?

Misty

Dear Misty,
The fog reduces visibility and therefore heightens the need to think safety. If you cannot see from one goal to the other the game will be dangerous as any ball hit with gusto, or lifted, could be lost by players and umpires alike. Fog does tend to move too making visibility unpredictable. It becomes difficult to umpire the game effectively and within a safe environment while fog is covering most of the pitch. If you have to make a decision – make the safe one!

