

Newsletter

Volume 56

May 2014

Chairman's Letter

Once again we have come to the end of another hectic season! It only seems like 5 minutes ago that I was writing a letter at the end of last season, and here we are galloping towards the summer league! No doubt you are all looking forward to the summer break.

This season your committee has run three level 1 courses and there are 2 planned in the near future. In order for us to continue to offer a high number of courses under the new look umpiring structure, 4 of our coaches have attended the tutors course with England Hockey – More on this subject to follow.

We have also run 2 rules evenings for club players. So why not suggest it to your club, or get together with another team and we'll do the presentation if you provide the venue and attendees!

We continue to have a large number of candidate umpires (223), who have successfully passed their theory exam and are eligible to umpire league games as per league regulations. Whilst it is the club who are responsible for letting the opposition know that they have a candidate umpiring, please also remind your clubs, as we continue to experience issues with this and 2 candidates have arrived to do the same game, which cannot go ahead without 1 umpire being fully assessed and qualified.

I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Ben Garrod who has recently won the National Young Umpire of the Year award. Ben umpires for Team Bath Buccs and has recently gained his Level 2 umpire award at the age of 16 – Well done Ben.

That makes the hat trick for Avon, having had three winners of this award in the

last four seasons – we must be doing something right.

Two of the previous winners Nick Bennett and Caz Fenn have now moved out of the region but continue to impress in the umpiring world both having been appointed to prestigious international events in the near future.

Caz has recently got married and we wish her, her husband and Aurora every happiness in the future.

I would like to thank Chris Verrall, one of our newer umpires, for approaching us and volunteering his time to work with Pete to look at how we might improve the website for you. Chris is not a committee member, so if you have a bit of spare time and an idea to help the committee and your fellow umpires we'd be happy to listen and grateful for your help!

Our facebook page is now live, although in its infancy, so please visit and leave your comments, start, or join in the discussions!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/ACWHUA/269670933133459>

We very much want this Newsletter to be yours and to reflect the needs of our members. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for articles, or whether you fancy trying your hand as a journo or a crossword compiler!

As there won't be another Newsletter until the start of next season, I'd like to wish you all a very restful summer (put your feet up for a couple of Saturdays!).

Justine

NEW RULES

From the end of the season it has been announced that the mandatory rule regarding the “own goal” will be deleted. That means that we revert to the old rule requiring the ball to have been played by an attacker inside the circle before a goal can be scored, there is no longer such a thing as an “own goal”.

At the time of publication there has been no announcement with regard to any other rule changes, but we will of course keep you informed should anything else transpire.

Reassessments

Remember the day that you qualified as an umpire? Were you nervous, or was it easy to demonstrate to the assessors that you were capable of umpiring matches?

As you gained experience, you've no doubt become more confident and find it much easier to prepare for matches, work together with your umpire colleague and maybe even enjoy umpiring!

At ACWHUA we're proud of the umpiring work that we do, from the astro-roots local umpiring to the parts we've played in getting success at National and International levels. We acknowledge the hard work that all the members put in and recognise the good standards that we all set on the pitches. The requirement to return a signed match card shows that you do at least three matches a season and confirms that you are an active umpire.

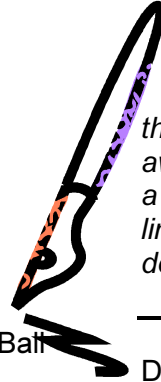
One of the ways that we support you is to provide information on all rule changes through newsletters updates and meetings. We also provide a reassessment service where every four years there is an opportunity for an umpire coach to see you in action. It's not as scary as your first assessment, and it's a great chance to discuss any incidents that happen during the game, interpretation of rules and maybe things that will make the time on the pitch a little bit easier for you...

Of course we can't do this without your help, as we don't know where or when you're umpiring, so if you'd like a bit of coaching from someone who actively umpires, or is an umpire-coach - why not get in touch with your club liaison officer (details below) and arrange to meet up? We'll be in touch if we've not seen you for a few years to offer you the opportunity for reassessment.

Summer League

Your association are again running the summer league at Coombe Dingle on Monday and Thursday evenings with games at 7pm and 8.15pm every evening. If you would like some matches to either keep your eye in or complete your 3 match card please contact either Vanda Fenn vanda.fenn@uwe.ac.uk or Peter Lovell peterlovell@sky.com who will try to accommodate you.

Dear Marge



the backboard, a goal should not be awarded because the first shot, which was a hit, would clearly not have crossed the line below 460mm, again a free hit to the defence should be awarded.

Hi Marge,

Can I query how to interpret this rule - Ball hit from a short corner?

Rule text ends with the phrase "... for a goal to be scored". This somewhat implies that a ball can be hit but that if it entered the goal, it would be as if the ball had simply crossed the back line, ie. the hit out would be awarded after the ball is dead.

However, the guidance in italics, says that a hit ball "must be penalised".

This suggests that the whistle should be blown as soon as the umpire is sure that the height requirement is not met, which might be almost immediately the ball is struck if it's travelling very high, i.e., no need to wait for it to pass the back line.

Your advice would be appreciated. Thanks.

My advice is:

What the rule is saying is that the first shot at goal if it is a hit must, in the opinion of the umpire, regardless of whether it actually enters the goal, be crossing the goal line below 460mm (18").

Therefore, if in the opinion of the umpire, the first shot at goal, if a hit, would not have passed over the goal line at less than 460mm, it should be disallowed even if a deflection makes it that the ball eventually does pass over the goal line at less than 460mm.

E.g. - first shot at a goal is a hit and hits the goalkeeper who is no more than a couple of yards from the goal line in the chest then drops downwards and crosses the goal line on the ground. The goal should not be awarded because the first shot most clearly would not have crossed the line below 460mm and a free hit should be awarded to the defence.

Or

A shot at goal is put in that is still rising and is clearly above 460mm is then deflected by an attackers stick downwards and hits

Dear Marge,

I am very confused following a recent game – can you clarify this please?

At full time we had to play out a PC, the ball left the D and was then brought in to take a strike, the ball was deflected back out of the D, came in again and we scored a goal. The other team protested and the Umpires got a rule book out – they advised that the ball had not gone 5m out of the D, so the goal was awarded. When we were in the changing room, the Umpires came in and said they had rechecked and, as the ball had travelled outside the D for a 2nd time the goal would not stand –result was a draw rather than us winning! I am totally befuddled as to what the correct decision is!

Dear Befuddled,

I am not surprised! There are 2 elements to your question. Firstly, at ½ time, or the end of the game, the ball travelling outside the D for the 2nd time means that the PC is over – so no goal should have been awarded. However, having given the goal during time, the Umpires cannot change their mind after the final whistle has been blown – therefore your win should have stood!

Another issue that I have received several letters about refers to the shouting of 'mine'.

Rather than give examples, I will only say that there is no requirement to 'put a name on it' and nothing in the rules of hockey that state that a player cannot legitimately shout 'mine' and make a tackle, whether in the D or not! One example resulted in a penalty corner, rather harshly, given that no offence had been committed!

Interview with an Umpire Coach

Why did you become an umpire coach?

I have received some excellent coaching myself, and really like to help people develop their umpiring skills.

Are there any particular qualities necessary to undertake this role?

I would say that to undertake this role, you have to get on with people. Not everyone I am asked to coach actually wants me to help them; so it is how I can put them at their ease, and explain that I am there to help, and not just to find fault. So good communication skills are essential for this role.

Are there any similarities with the advice you give?

Positioning is a common theme. It is about trying to get umpires into a position where they can see what is happening – usually by being at a 45 degree angle from the ball and not looking straight up or down the pitch. Also linked to this is being ahead of play as it enters your own area of control. Being close enough to play to be credible when making decisions is also important.

The next most common coaching point is probably use of the whistle – avoiding whistles with peas, blowing loud enough and confidently enough to be heard by everyone, and using different tones so that players know if you are unhappy about a bad tackle for example, or celebrating a goal that has been allowed to be scored by an umpires advantage.

I am interested in becoming an umpire coach, how do I go about it?

Talk to anyone on the ACWHUA committee – we will get you to come along to a few Summer League games to watch different coaches and then join in giving feedback to level 1 candidates. When you feel comfortable, you will then be watched undertaking this. Avon currently pay for registration as a level 1 coach with England hockey to encourage our members to undertake this important role.

2013/14 Committee

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	Liz Powell	01179 498571	thepowells298@virginmedia.com
	Jan Sharp	01454 321264	janicemsharp@aol.com

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee should you have any questions but please remember to observe common courtesies i.e. do not ring after 10pm

Interview with an umpire – Injuries

So, what happened?

The attacking team brought the ball in on the left wing, and lined up for the cross, but when the ball was struck it lifted and hit the defender on the forehead - I immediately blew, in fact I may have blown the whistle before the ball hit the player. The defender was holding her forehead but you could see that the skin had broken because of the amount of blood, and you always need to be cautious with head injuries.

OK – so you've stopped time for the injury; what did you do then?

The injury and its treatment is NOT your responsibility – the teams have responsibility for first aid, so I made sure someone was able to assess the injury (a nurse on the other team took charge) and then I went to find my colleague.

Often the team of the injured player gather around them and you usually have to ask them to step away, especially when they're gasping and saying they feel sick – this is not helpful to the injured player!

I checked whether the first-aider wanted me to ask the sports centre to call an ambulance, but on this occasion the player was taken to hospital by a spectator who had travelled with them and the game was able to continue.

Did any blood fall on the pitch?

Yes, quite a lot really. Whilst the player was being treated we asked the staff to give us a bucket of water so that the pitch could be cleaned before restarting. Once the player had been moved we cleaned the pitch.

What would have happened if you'd had to call an ambulance?

The game would probably have been suspended, unless the player was able to move off the pitch.

Have you got any helpful hints for other umpires dealing with injuries?

It may be helpful to separate the teams, this may prevent any flash points between players especially if the game has been a bit 'niggly' beforehand.

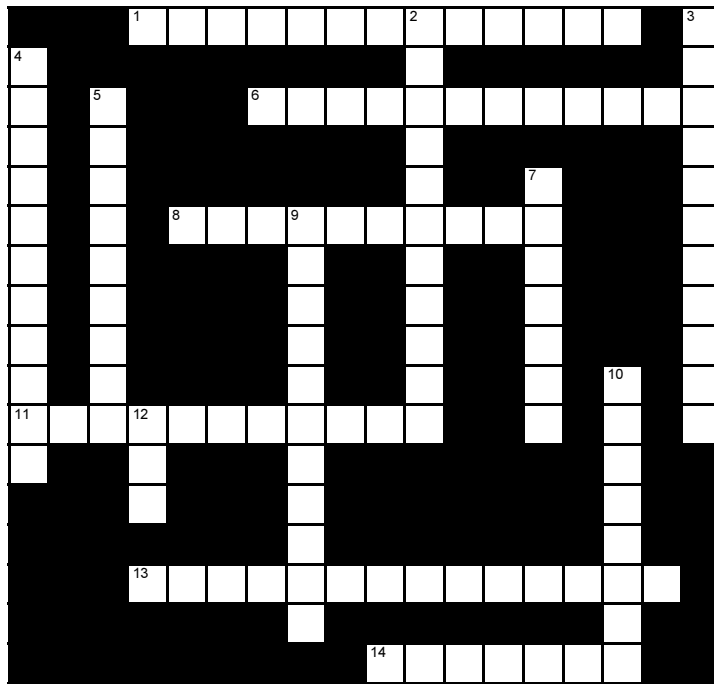
If treatment is taking a while then it's OK for the players to continue with some warm up exercises.

Generally the injured player should make their way off the pitch (with or without assistance) to allow the match to continue. But if you are told the player can't be moved and an ambulance is needed, be prepared to suspend the game.

Finally remember that the players may be unsettled by the events, so it's good to announce that the game (time) will restart on the whistle, and confirm the decision (e.g. free hit to team A, penalty corner, penalty stroke, bully).

Major injuries don't happen very often, so when they do, keep calm!

Crossword



Across

- 1 The ultimate decision for persistent early breaking by the defence at penalty corners (7,6)
- 6 You should always make time for this before a match (3-5,4)
- 8 Umpiring in sunglasses hampers this essential tool (3-7)
- 11 The unwritten rule that all umpires should know (6,5)
- 13 England Hockey will host this tournament in 2018 (6,5,3)
- 14 Name of the EHB Code of Ethics and Behaviour (7)

Down

- 2 Skilfully take the ball when behind the player in possession (5,6)
- 3 Played New Zealand in the 2012 Olympic semi-final (11)
- 4 Player who must wear a helmet when defending penalty corners and strokes (7,4)
- 5 What you and your colleague are on the pitch (5,4)
- 7 The ball should be this before a free hit (7)
- 9 How defenders prevent attackers from entering space (11)
- 10 Use your body to stop a player getting to the ball (8)
- 12 A red card equivalent after the match (1,1,1)

Have a great summer!