

Spencer Hockey Club

Umpire Strategy 2021

This strategy aims to support the growth of umpiring within Spencer HC across both Junior and Senior sections. The initial focus is on growing the base of umpires, developing umpires through opportunities and support, and creating a sustainable pool of umpires.

Objectives

Spencer HC has formed some short and long term goals to develop umpiring in the club:

1. Appoint a group of umpire secretaries to support teams in allocating umpires throughout the season and delivering the umpire strategies
2. Create and maintain an up to date list of qualified and confident umpires within the club for members to use when searching for umpires for matches
3. Support members in the club to qualify as umpires so that there are more assessed and confident umpires and create a sustainable umpiring pathway so that there is a sustained or continued growth in the number of umpires within the club
4. Encourage, reward and value the volunteer umpires

OBJECTIVE ONE

Appoint a group of umpire secretaries

- Recruit members from the men, women and junior sections to support all sections of the club
- Responsibilities and duties will be delegated across all umpire secretaries (see Appendix)
- Umpire secretaries will attend EH Umpire Developer Course (£10 per participant)
- Subscribe to EH Umpire Membership (£25pa – one account)
- Subscribe to EH Umpire Membership (free version – multiple accounts) to maintain up to date with events and rule changes
- All club umpires (not just secs) to register to Hockey Hub on EH website (free)
- Be part of social media groups e.g. 'Umpire Whistle' on Facebook etc. (free)
- Maintain the Spencer HC Umpire email inbox

OBJECTIVE TWO

Create and maintain a list of qualified and confident umpires within the club

- Design categories of umpiring levels so that suitable umpires can be allocated/chosen for matches (see Appendix)
- Maintain an up to date list of Spencer HC members and contacts who are qualified and confident umpires
- Contact local umpiring associations (Surrey and Middlesex) and local clubs to support one another with umpiring allocations
- Support the committee in arranging umpires for club events such as Club Day, trials and derbies
- Support Summer League organiser in arranging umpires for matches

OBJECTIVE THREE

Support members to qualify as umpires and create a sustainable umpiring pathway

- Liaise with London Wayfarers and EH about umpire courses
- Subsidise EH Level I Umpiring Course for all members who attend (£30 per participant online)
- Encourage members to attend EH Courses: Introduction to Umpiring Course; Online Workshops; Practical Umpiring Sessions; Umpiring the Small Sided Game
- Provide opportunities for members to umpire formal/informal matches
- Provide opportunities for guidance during formal/informal matches (Find experienced club umpires to give some practical tips while watching a game from the sidelines and to watch and chat through a game umpired by first time/developing umpires to build confidence and good habits)
- Pair confident and developing umpire in formal/informal matches for practice
- Develop an initiative/umpire pathway for juniors and seniors

OBJECTIVE FOUR

Encourage, reward and value the volunteer umpires

- The club will reimburse the cost of travel that umpires incur when umpiring away matches
- Potential for reduced subs/rebate for umpires who umpire specified numbers of games in a season or other rewards (e.g. reduced EOSD ticket/socials; voucher for clubhouse)
- Umpire of the week
- Umpire section on the website
- Celebrate each person who qualifies by announcing on website/social media (GDPR/Safeguarding compliant)

As this strategy is being developed, the new umpires secretaries can adapt, change and introduce new concepts as they feel necessary so should not feel restricted by the objectives.

If you have any questions about this strategy, or would like to contribute further suggestions, please contact Harriet spencerwclubcaptains@gmail.com