



For the 2024-2025 season England Hockey has changed the league rules to now require clubs to list all appointed umpires along with their team, when submitting the team players on GMS prior to match.

There are two elements to this, a) what we umpires have to do on GMS; b) the need to register with EH officiating (EHO) bronze level – free. And c) the league rules 2024

a) Registering on GMS:

From: GMS Support <gms.support@englandhockey.co.uk> **Sent:** 01 October 2024 13:34
Subject: RE: Identifying umpires on GMS

Club Admins and Team Captains cannot “Tag” a playing member as an umpire.

The player who is also an umpire, to register as an umpire by registering for the Officiating role. If they register using the same email that they have registered for any other role (player/parent etc.) then all roles will be linked to the same profile. (Please use the same email address!) Go to : <https://secure.whotheumpire.com/signup.php> to sign up

(For free EHO Membership – they should select **Bronze** when prompted within the registration process). NB: Umpires who take and receive appointments need to take Gold registration)

Once registered on GMS system, you then have to send in confirmation of your registration by emailing the GMS support team at this email gms.support@englandhockey.co.uk to request the GMS support team to then “Tag” the umpire within the Club.
This then enables Winchester team Captain’s to find and select the club umpire for inclusion within the team sheet on GMS prior to match day. No doubt this will avoid potential penalties in the future.

(This registration is a manual process that only GMS can do – the club can’t do this.)

b) England Hockey officiating / umpiring -

<https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/deliver/officiate/umpire/eho>

How Do I Join?

NB: Bronze level is free of charge, just gives you access to news, training etc, a requirement for L1 and all umpires on GMS.

EH are now inviting individuals to become a member of the EHO through the Game Management System.

The steps you will need to follow:

1. Visit <https://gms.englandhockey.co.uk>
2. Click the “register” button
3. Select “Officiating”
4. Enter your e-mail address and submit for a verification code when received via e-mail.
5. Select your Primary and Secondary Area Branches as appropriate. Your Primary Area Branch should be the one where you wish to either undertake the majority of independent umpiring opportunities or receive support with your Officiating.
6. Select the appropriate membership category.
7. Complete the rest of your details as requested
8. Press Submit





c) The league rules are as follows

11 UMPIRES & MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 The responsibility of appointing competent umpires to matches falls to the Area Officiating Committee, Welsh Hockey Umpires Association or Club as appropriate.

11.1.1 If a fixture has Area Appointed umpires, the Club must confirm venue, start time and any other match related information, at least 3 days before the Fixture.

11.1.2 Where Clubs are responsible for appointing to a match, the home club must appoint both umpires, except in the cases below:

11.1.2.1 Where a Club believes it will not be able to provide two umpires, it MUST contact its opposition to inform them of the fact and ask them to provide one umpire at each meeting between the teams. This must be done at least 14 days before the FIRST fixture between the teams;

11.1.2.2 The away club has contacted the home club to say it intends to appoint an umpire for the match. This umpire must be confirmed as being qualified to the Level of Accreditation required by table 11.4. This must be done at least 5 days before the match. The home club is not allowed to decline. The away team is then responsible for appointing an umpire, unless and until both teams agree otherwise.

11.2 Both umpires must be recorded on the GMS team sheet, Areas may require clubs to appoint a Match Official to matches at Grade 2, or the appointing bodies above may appoint a Match Official. The duties and responsibilities in relation to these Regulations are shown in Appendix 7.

11.3 **All umpires must be registered members of the England Hockey Officiating (EHO) club.** An unregistered umpire can complete their registration up to 24 hours after the relevant fixture has been completed, using this link: <https://secure.whotheumpire.com/signup.php>

11.4 The table below outlines the requirements for umpires at each Grade of competition. If an umpire has no formal accreditation a definition of competence for Grade 5 matches can be found in Regulation

11.10

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Level of accreditation required	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed
Acceptable minimum accreditation (where agreed by the ALMC)	Level 2	Level 1 Assessed	Level 1 Unassessed	Level 1 Unassessed	No formal accreditation required
Who conducts appointments	NPUA	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Area Officiating Committees where possible, otherwise clubs	Clubs	Clubs
Can umpires be switched at half time?	No	No	No	No (unless agreed by the ALMC & the opposition captain)	Yes

11.5 If at any match an appointed umpire is unable to officiate, whether through non-availability, nonappearance of an independently appointed Umpire or injured during a match, every effort must be made by both clubs to provide an umpire accredited to the above acceptable level of accreditation as minimum for the relevant grade of competition.

11.6 Clubs must endeavour to use a club umpire before the use of players involved in the match, but in the absence of one or both club umpires, the club that has not provided an umpire in accordance



with its obligations shall withdraw one player from their side and that player shall act as umpire. If there are not two club umpires available to officiate, then the match may only be played as a League match if both Team Captains so agree.

11.7 If – under Regulations 11.5 or 11.6 - an umpire is found (either club umpire or player) but is not accredited to the required standard, if both captains agree the match can still be played as a league match

NOTE: Wherever reasonably possible the emphasis should be on reaching agreement and playing the match.

11.8 In the event that no suitable umpire is found, or captains do not agree:

11.8.1 If the original umpire was appointed by the Area Officiating Committee or if an umpire injured during the match – then the match must be postponed and replayed in line with League Regulations. No penalty awarded in this circumstance.

11.8.2 If an umpire is found but is not accredited to the required level and both captains do not agree, then the League fixture must be postponed and played in line with League Regulations.

11.8.3 In all circumstances, even when an agreed umpire is found, where the original umpire should have been supplied by one or other of the teams then the appropriate penalty may be applied to the team who failed to supply an umpire of the appropriate level.

11.9 There can be no appeal or complaint against any decision (or non-decision) of an umpire on the field of play during a match

11.10 To be deemed a competent umpire for Grade 5 competition, the umpire will need to demonstrate (through their performance) the following competencies:

- Understanding of the rules having completed The Online Rules Test
- The ability to keep the match safe
- To make decisions fairly, with a sense of justice and integrity
- To umpire the match with their colleague cooperatively, for the benefit of the players.
- To allow the match to flow for the benefit of the player experience.

11.11 Any issues regarding umpire conduct by either Area Appointed Umpire or Club Appointed Umpire shall be dealt with by the appointing body or via the EH Disciplinary Regulations as appropriate, and not the ALMC.

11.12 All clubs MUST complete an Umpire's report for Area Appointed Umpires by 2000 hrs the Wednesday after the match

Action: We (and every club) needs to ask each qualified level 1 umpire (or qualifying learning umpire) to register as an umpire on GMS, and to (as part of this process) register with EH on the England Hockey Officiating website (EHO) as a bronze member. This is a free of charge registration, and enables umpires to access additional support resources.