

Umpiring & Officiating Update - 14th September 2020

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Date: Monday, 14 September 2020, 12:19 BST

To: All HUA Chairs

All HUA Secretaries

All EH Umpiring Tutors

TAP (All members)

CC: Umpiring Workforce Team at England Hockey

14th September 2020

Hi All

I trust you are all keeping well and for some, have been able to get back on a pitch over the past few weeks. Please see below some updates for you ahead of the EHL season starting this coming weekend and other local leagues starting next week....

1. England Hockey Return to Play

Following the announcement last week from government concerning the tighter Social Distancing measures that came into play today, I'd like to remind you all of the following:

- The conditions of the Return to Play agreement with DCMS allow the relaxing of social distancing on the pitch when the ball is in play. This means that when the clock is stopped, or situations such as the set up to a Penalty Corner, social distancing should be applied by the players.
- The total number of 30 people in the guidance documents apply to individuals within the white lines of the pitch. The pitch surrounding area (i.e. within the cage but not on the field of play) must apply social distancing guidelines. This applies to all individuals on team benches, any technical officials on duty, umpire coaches / assessors and spectators.

The umpires are responsible purely for the rules of the game. The home club's COVID Officer is responsible for ensure that any guidance documents concerning the steps the club have taken to make the facility COVID safe are available.

- As Officiating generally, we have a responsibility when appointing individuals to ensure they have completed a Participant Agreement and are aware of their responsibilities on game day. As HUAs and TAP, we need to ensure we have the following in place:
 - We have registered a COVID Officer with clubs@englandhockey.co.uk
 - That COVID Officer has access to EH records to show who has completed the Participant Agreement

- Weekly, we ask for the appointments made by HUAs or TAP to be sent to England Hockey for all Track & Trace queries. These records are kept for 21 days and then destroyed.
- If someone involved in a game shows either COVID Symptoms OR is tested positive for COVID, the COVID Safety Officer for the HUA or TAP will be required to contact the clubs and make them aware of this. The same is applied if a club contacts the HUA / TAP COVID Officer, so they can get in touch with the umpire or official in question.

More information is available on the England Hockey website [here](#).

2. England Hockey Umpiring & Technical Officiating training and education provision.

Please see below a statement that is being released later this week concerning the face to face delivery of educational courses from England Hockey:

“Following the recent communications from England Hockey and the move to Stage 5 in the Return to Play, we wanted to update the hockey family on the educational offer for delivery of umpire and coach courses and workshops over the season.

Currently all educational delivery has been delivered online, with great success, with practical elements deferred until further notice. We are now in a position to confirm that all courses and workshops will continue to be delivered online for the foreseeable future and that there will be no current face to face delivery of courses and workshops.

This decision has been with the following rationale:

- With the uncertainty and changing social distancing legislation from the Government regarding COVID-19
- Challenges over unknown locations of local lockdowns
- Impact on the learning experience, as would not be fulfilling as we would want it to be
- Restrictions around venues (both indoor and outdoor facilities)

Existing feedback from participants from Coaching and Umpiring courses delivered online has been extremely positive. In some cases, certain courses have been found to be delivered better online for the learner experience and we are working with key partners to ensure that our delivery is of the best possible practice for all.

For more information on the current delivery, please visit the Hockey Hub by clicking [here](#).”

3. England Hockey AGM

As you may be aware, England Hockey’s rearranged AGM is to be held on Tuesday 15th September, via GoToMeeting.

The Chairs of HUA’s would have been contacted by Civica concerning the joining instructions and voting instructions, if proxy voting hadn’t been submitted by the members previously. If you have registered to attend but have not received your joining instructions yet, or anything further to do with the AGM, then please let me know asap and I’ll forward to the relevant team for you.

Once the AGM has been completed, we will know what the members vote is on the AGM Governance Review. Depending on the vote, I'll be in touch later next week with the next steps (obviously, depending on the outcome of the vote).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

David.



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