

ISLE OF MAN HOCKEY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS FACT SHEET

Season 2008/2009

1. Introduction

This document is intended to act as a reference point for any matters that may arise relating to your membership of the Isle of Man Hockey Umpires Association (IOMHUA). This covers matters concerning the running of our association, our relationship with the Manx Hockey Association and the actual umpiring and playing of hockey on the island. This will be reviewed and updated at the start of each season – if you have any queries, comments or suggestions relating to it please forward these to our Secretary.

2. The Committee

The current committee is as follows

President	Maurice Trace
Chairman	Tim Leeming
Vice Chairman	Garreth Roome
Secretary	Fiona Roome
Treasurer	Tim Callow
Appointments Secretary	John Harrison
Coaching Liaison	Garreth Roome
	Christian Cowley
	Keith Corkill

3. Financial

3.1 Membership Fees

Membership fees are set at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which is held in April each year. The current fees are £5.00 for probationary members and £10.00 for full members. There is a life membership fee of £50.00. Membership fees are due by 30 November each year.

3.2 Insurance

Paid up members are covered by an insurance policy in the name of North Hockey Umpires Association. Insurance is a matter of great concern these days, and the Committee considers it vital that all members who are active in umpiring pay their membership fees and gain the benefits of cover.

At the start of the season we encourage all who intend to umpire to renew their membership by either:

- Forwarding a cheque for £10.00 to the Treasurer; or
- Signing a form authorising the Treasurer to deduct this membership fee from any match fees that may become due to the umpire in the coming season.

The Committee reserves the right not to appoint umpires who fail to indicate their renewal of membership in one of these ways. This is intended to ensure that all members are adequately insured, and we seek your co-operation in this.

3.3 Match Fees

The IOMHUA charges teams £5.00 per game for all matches played under the auspices of the Manx Hockey Association (MHA). The Association makes this charge in two instalments during a season.

Members of the IOMHUA may claim a fee for each league or cup match that they umpire. This is to compensate them for the costs of travelling to the match. Claims are to be made to the treasurer by 31 May each year. The basis for expense claims is as follows:

3.3.1 Each umpire will nominate a “home pitch”

3.3.2 The basic fee for an umpiring appointment, regardless of location, is £6.00.

3.3.3 For pitches other than the nominated home pitch the umpire will be entitled to claim an additional travel allowance. If umpiring more than one game at that venue the umpire shall be entitled to only one travel allowance, although he/she will be entitled to the basic fee for each game umpired.

3.3.4 The travel allowance is as follows:

		NSC	CRHS	KWC	QE11	RGS
Home Pitch	NSC	£Nil	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00
	CRHS	£2.00	£Nil	£Nil	£2.00	£4.00
	KWC	£2.00	£Nil	£Nil	£2.00	£4.00
	QE11	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£Nil	£2.00
	RGS	£2.00	£4.00	£4.00	£Nil	£Nil

The fees charged to the clubs by the IOMHUA forms a significant part of the income of the Association. Without this we would struggle to provide the administration necessary to run the Association, or pay for the regular coaching visits. Many members opt not to claim for match fees (except so far as to cover annual membership fees) instead preferring to see the funds remain within the association to the greater benefit of all members.

4. Playing Regulations

4.1 Changing Strips

Under the bylaws of the MHA whenever there is a clash in playing strips it is the home team that have to change. This is something that the captains should have sorted out before the fixture. Where you suspect that there may be a clash we suggest that you check with the captain when you are confirmed.

4.2 League Matches

League matches are played on the five Astroturf pitches in Castletown, Douglas, Peel and Ramsey.

Under the bylaws of the MHA a team must consist of at least 7 players before a game can commence. (There is no requirement for the game to be stopped should a team fall below 7 in strength.) If there are insufficient numbers at the normal start time that team is allowed 10 minutes in which to get up to full strength. Beyond that they are deemed to have forfeited the match, subject to any further decision of the MHA Executive Committee.

4.3 Cup Matches

Current competition rules allow for cup matches to be played over two halves, each of 35 minutes. If the score is level at the end of normal time there is no provision for extra time. Instead the result will be decided by a penalty stroke competition. Procedures to be followed are set out in the Rules to Hockey.

In a mixed cup match the MHA require that no more than three men and no less than two women take the penalties in a penalty stroke competition. The accepted order within a team is man/woman/man/woman/man.

Any variations to the competition rules should be advised by the MHA in advance of the draw for each round of the competition.

4.4 Confirmation of Umpiring Appointment

4.4.1 The MHA require captains to confirm the appointed umpire by the Wednesday prior to the fixture. The bylaws of the MHA cover situations where an umpire fails to attend a fixture and has not been confirmed by the captain. However it is not in the interests of our association for umpires not to attend simply because they have not been confirmed. You are encouraged to inform the secretary of the IOMHUA of all occurrences – over time we will be keeping the MHA aware of the situation and asking them to act on this.

4.4.2 Where a game is cancelled that has had an umpire appointed to it, the failure of the team to advise the umpire will result in the imposition of the standard match fee charged to clubs. The umpire will be entitled to claim from the IOMHUA in such cases.

5. Appointments

5.1 Appointments Committee

The Appointments committee make the appointments. The inclusion of our Chief Coach on this committee is intended to provide a link between umpire development and umpire appointment.

It is widely acknowledged that the role of appointments is the most onerous in any umpires association. This is more so on the Isle of Man where so many of our umpires are also players, and in many cases capable of playing for more than one team in any weekend. It is important that we all bear this in mind in our dealings with the Appointments Committee.

5.2 The Appointments procedures will be as follows:

5.2.1 By 15th day of the preceding month you should advise the Appointments Committee of your availability for the coming month. This should be in writing, preferably by e-mail. It is too dangerous to rely on messages passed on in the pub after a game! If you do not advise to the contrary you will be presumed to be fully available.

5.2.2 The Appointments Committee will ideally meet and make appointments for circulation by the 25th of the preceding month.

5.2.3 Once these have been issued the duties of the Appointments Committee regarding that months appointments is at an end. Should an umpire subsequently be unavailable for any reason it is his/her responsibility to find a replacement. This replacement must be of the same grade or higher. To assist in this the appointments sheet will list available umpires.

5.2.4 All changes to appointments must be notified to the Appointments Secretary by email.

6. Disciplinary

6.1 Issuing of a red card

6.1.1 All umpires are encouraged to use appropriate disciplinary measures during a game, including the use of 10 yards, verbal cautions, green and yellow cards. It is hoped that by the appropriate use of these penalties all disciplinary issues can be minor, and contained within the game itself. However there will be times when it proves necessary to issue a red card and permanently suspend the player from further participation in that match. The EHA has set down guidelines to be followed. A copy of these can be obtained from the County Disciplinary Officer should the need arise.

6.1.2 The guidelines cover two situations. Red Card Offences cover situations where a player is suspended from further participation in the game. The game is defined to be all that time between the commencement of a match and its completion and shall include any extra time being played and/or any penalty strike competition, the half time interval and any other interval between the aforementioned phases of the match.

6.1.3 Following the issuing of a red card the necessary form needs to be completed and forwarded to the County Disciplinary Officer within 72 hours. This form can be obtained from the County Disciplinary Officer, from the Secretary of the IOMHUA, or downloaded from the England Hockey website. It is essential that this occur whenever a red card is shown. In situations where an umpire feels with hindsight that the red card may not have been warranted the form still needs to be completed with the appropriate comments. It will then be for the Disciplinary Committee to determine whether further action should be taken.

6.2 Regulation 3 Offences

Offences other than red card offences cover all other situations, and cover any conduct considered to be prejudicial to the interests of any constituent body (which includes the Manx Hockey Association and the Isle of Man Hockey Umpires Association), to the EHA or to the game of hockey. Any affiliated body and any member thereof may make a report in writing to the County Disciplinary Officer concerning such an offence. An example of such a situation would be where an umpire is subjected to verbal abuse following the completion of a match and outside of the confines of the pitch.

6.3 Support of the IOMHUA

6.3.1 Discipline in Manx hockey has become a matter of some concern. Whilst we do not wish to encourage the unnecessary issuing of red cards we must all appreciate that their use is on occasion required. It is important that these situations are properly dealt with. Remember that other umpires may well suffer in future games if you fail to take the necessary disciplinary measures when the situation demands.

6.3.2 The MHA also monitors yellow cards, and reserves the right to impose penalties on clubs or players who are seen to be persistent offenders. Yellow cards are to be recorded on the match sheet by captains. Although there is no requirement for these sheets to be reviewed or signed by umpires we suggest that you do ask for a view of this sheet immediately following a game, and confirm with the captain which players have been issued with a yellow card.

7. Umpiring Equipment

7.1 The recommended stockist for umpiring equipment is Whistles, whose website address is www.umpires.net. This company provides a stock of clothing that will be embroidered with the IOMHUA logo, and also supplies accessories such as whistles, cards, watches etc.

7.2 The preferred colour for shirts is orange, with a backup strip of cerise.

8. Coaching and Grading

8.1 Grading

The grades that are recognised by the IOMHUA are Level 1 – the basic umpiring award recognised throughout English and Manx hockey, Grade 2 and Grade 1, these last two being specific to Manx hockey. A small number of local umpires have achieved a Level 2, another National grade. This is achieved through umpiring within the North Hockey Umpires Association, and cannot be awarded by the IOMHUA.

An umpire's grade acts as an indication to the Appointments Committee of that person's ability, and is used in determining the standard of game that the umpire should be appointed to. Level 1 umpires cannot umpire cup finals and semi-finals, and Grade 2 umpires can only do so in conjunction with a Grade 1 umpire.

8.2 Coaching

The IOMHUA has coaching support both on-island and off-island. Our Coaches, supported by a small number of the senior umpires, provides the on-island coaching. This resource is available to you at all times should you wish to request it. If so, please make your request known through the Appointments Committee. We also seek to run two watching weekends throughout each season. We receive assistance from North Hockey Umpires Association who are happy to provide two qualified umpire coaches who undertake such watchings as we request.

8.3 Assessments

At this time we have a local panel of assessors who will be asked on a regular basis to make Level One awards, and to make recommendations on upgrading from Level 1 to Grade 2. Because of a desire to maintain similar standards with mainland umpiring associations we rely more on coaches from across to make recommendations on upgrading from Grade 2 to Grade 1. The Committee, based on the recommendations received, makes all decisions on changes to grades.
