



Club Umpire Officer role spec

Webpage: <https://hockey.ie/get-involved/umpire/>

Umpiring courses: <https://hockey.ie/events/category/umpiring-courses/>

Club Umpire Programme

The Club Umpire Programme is aimed at engaging with, and growing, the number of umpires in clubs, supporting them to be confident and enjoy umpiring. The main part of the programme involves the training up of a Club Umpire Officer (CUO). The CUO will be trained, by Hockey Ireland and the provincial umpiring bodies, to lead on the development of umpiring within their club. The Club Umpire Programme will also provide continuous development and support via provincial and club workshops.

The ultimate aims of this programme are:

- 1) Increase recruitment of umpires for the neutral program
- 2) All umpires in Ireland must have a formal umpiring qualification to umpire. This should be implemented from season 25/26.

This will be the only qualification recognised for new umpires wishing to:

- 1) umpire at national level (all HI competitions)
- 2) be included in the National Umpire academy
- 3) be considered for EHF umpire development programmes (U4N, U4E and UDP)
- 4) be considered for EHF and FIH appointments

Club Umpire Officer – role & responsibilities

Club Umpire Officers will facilitate and manage umpiring within their own club. This CUO will be the point of contact for umpires in their club in terms of questions about how to manage situations, how they can develop, or any questions that they have on umpiring. They will also have the basic skills needed to watch club umpires and provide them with some suggestions about how to improve.

The main functions of the CUO are:

- Be the main point of contact for umpire development within the club
- Work actively to recruit and support registered club umpires
- Maintain a list of club umpires and contact details
- Circulate umpiring information to players, coaches and club umpires within their club
- Encourage club umpires to complete the HI Fundamentals of umpiring courses
- Arrange club umpire coaching sessions or seminars supported by their provincial umpiring associations.
- Assist Club Umpires if they have to report disciplinary incidents or Code of Conduct matters
- Review club umpiring performances intermittently, and check in with club umpires regularly to ensure that they are progressing and supported.

In the event that the CUO feels that their club umpires need help in a specific area, or, if their umpires have questions that the CUO feels they cannot answer, then they can link in with their provincial association to support them. Their provincial umpiring association will arrange workshops to take place in the club at the CUOs request. In this way the CUO acts as an intermediary between a clubs umpires, and the provincial umpiring associations.



The role of a CUOs may change depending on the size, experience and goals of each individual club. Some clubs may consider implementing ideas such as:

- Including umpire updates in their club newsletters
- Encouraging clubs to celebrate their umpires in social media channels
- Implement mandatory umpiring rotas within their club
- Set up officers to patrol junior games to ensure good crowd behaviour.
- Liaising with Team Captains to ensure umpires are appointed to their games each week
- Report to the Club Committee on umpiring matters

Other clubs may focus mostly on developing umpires for their full-pitch junior age groups. These are just some ideas for people to consider.

Minimum qualifications for Club Umpire Coach:

- Current or retired umpire or
- Completed (or will complete) online rules test & Fundamentals of Umpiring 1

- ◆ Club Umpire Officer must attend:
 - IHUA Club Umpire Coach Course and
 - 2 seminars per season – the initial training course will count as the 1st seminar. The aim of the seminars is to keep the club umpire coaches up to date with developments in umpiring (new rules etc.) and to address any concerns/issues and also their input into possible improvements

- ◆ Club Umpire Coach to advise Provincial Umpire Association if Club Umpire shows promise and willingness to progress to neutral panel umpire i.e. umpire at provincial level
- ◆ Provincial Umpires Association to provide assessment or additional coaching required

Clubs who wish to sign up for this Club Umpire Programme, and who wish to train members to be coaches, should contact Tom Goode on umpiring@hockey.ie

Provincial Umpiring Association support for Club Umpire Coaches:

Club Umpire Officers will be supported by:

- Person nominated by Provincial Umpire Association and/or
- Regional Development Officer

Provincial Umpiring Associations will:

- Provide a point of contact for queries and questions about umpiring
- Signpost UCOs to where club umpires can attain umpiring qualifications
- Signpost UCOs to how and when club umpires can join the Umpire Development Pathway at regional levels
- Provide resources, expertise and support for club umpire seminars and workshops
- Provided expert and knowledgeable assistance to help report disciplinary matters or unsavoury incidents