



# **SOUTH CENTRAL AREA OFFICIATING COMMITTEE**



On behalf of England Hockey and the hockey community, we are deeply saddened by the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and offer our sincerest condolences to the whole royal family and our patron HRH Countess of Wessex, the Queen's daughter-in-law.

With gratitude for your tireless efforts over decades of public service and for all you have given to communities across the UK and the world.

Thank you.

## **SEPTEMBER 2022 – OFFICIATING NEWSLETTER**

This Officiating newsletter is being sent out separately from the Area newsletter as we wanted to wait until the rule changes were clear, and we had held our first on-line rules discussion.

### **COMMITTEE**

Just as a reminder your SC Area Officiating Committee is:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail contact</b>
Chair	Simon Milford	<a href="mailto:Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Vice Chair	Alan Dow	<a href="mailto:ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey">ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
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Lead Developer	Ginette Tessier	<a href="mailto:Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Club Liaison	Rowena Shepherd	<a href="mailto:Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey">Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>
Young Umpires	Sam Krasner	<a href="mailto:LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey">LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey</a>

## CLUB LIAISON

Sadly, the efforts to arrange umpire development over the summer hockey leagues were unsuccessful. Summer hockey can offer a great opportunity for new umpires to gain experience and for them to develop their skills. It would be great if we could take advantage of summer games next year to encourage new umpires in your club!

Communicating with clubs is slightly better than last season - but it is still very tricky to identify and contact the precisely right person. GMS is a rather blunt tool - and I apologise to those people who received an email that wasn't really for them. If, in future, you receive another email from me, can you kindly forward it to the correct official within your club.

If you are a club umpire developer and haven't received any communications from me - can you please email me using the address below.

Thanks to our Lead Developer, SCO has offered an online coaching session to Club Umpire developers to assist them in getting candidates ready for their level one assessment. The first session was very well received and a second session will go ahead imminently.

South Central has a well organised system for assessing level one candidates. The process is managed by Ray Hipkin. Candidates should contact either me or Ray directly. Please do not expect immediate action - allow a few weeks for all the necessary arrangements to be made.

SCO is keen to support club umpire developers. Please get in touch to let us know if you need support and tell us how you think we could help you.

Rowena Shepherd

[Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey)

## RULE AND REGULATION UPDATES FOR 2022/23

There are three main updates to be aware of for the 2022/23 season. If you have any questions, please do bring them along to the Monday Mixer sessions (Monday evening zoom meeting for all SCO umpires). Details can be found on <https://umpiredev.co.uk>

Make sure you discuss these updates with your colleague in your pre-match chat!

### Update 1

**FIH Rule 4.2.e** (abbreviated extract):

*"Players should remove their penalty corner equipment as soon as they are able to do so after the penalty corner is completed. If no suitable opportunity ... arises, they can continue to wear it ... within the 23m area without penalty. All players must remove all protective equipment before they leave the 23m area or when instructed to by the umpire;"*

**Interpretation:** this rule update allows for a defender wearing a face mask to continue with the ball outside of the circle (but not beyond the 23m area), until there is a suitable opportunity to pass the ball to a colleague not wearing a mask.

**Guidance:** common sense and consideration of intent is the important bit here. This is not about looking for opportunities to penalise defenders. The rule update is designed to give a bit more flexibility to when the masks should be discarded (noting that this still has to be done safely). Generally, unless a defender has the ball and is actively looking to pass it to a colleague, masks should still be removed as soon as the PC is completed, as we are already used to. As the umpire, you have the opportunity to let players know when you think there is a chance to pass the ball away and remove a mask.

**Penalties:** most infringements will result in a free hit to the attack. Note that a self-pass is not allowed when taking a free hit while

wearing a mask, but a reset rather than an automatic reversal is your most likely response. We would not expect cards to be given for this offence.

## Update 2

**FIH Rule 9.10:** *“Players must not approach within 5 metres of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground. The ball may be intercepted within 5 metres but outside of playing distance provided it is done safely.”*

**Interpretation:** this rule update allows for a skilful interception of a raised ball within 5m of an obvious receiver if it is done so safely.

**Guidance:** a skilful interception means picking the ball out of the air in a way that doesn't cause danger. Generally this is likely to be by someone running in and across the front of the obvious receiver, but they shouldn't be closer than about 2m when this happens. All other situations (unclear receiver, falling into a crowd, dangerously lifted etc.) should be umpired as previously. If an attempt is made but the ball is missed, make sure the player attempting this then retreats 5m from the actual receiver; no other action required. If an attempt is made but causes danger, penalise the player causing the danger.

**Penalties:** as you would for any other situation where danger is created by a player mishandling the ball, otherwise deal with it as you would for any other aerial ball.

## Update 3

**League Regulations Appendix 3, Rule 13.3:** *“Time is not stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). If a suspended player's period of suspension ends during the taking of a penalty corner the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.”*

**Interpretation:** if a player's suspension ends during a Penalty Corner, they may return to the field once that Penalty Corner has been completed; or, if a new PC is awarded for a defensive foul before the current PC is completed, they may return in the period between the whistle for the foul and the next PC starting.

**Guidance:** be clear on the difference between a 'retake' of a PC and a 're-award' (better described as a 'new award'). The player cannot return during a retake, but they can return before the start of a new award. A retake only happens if either attack or defence break the line early, or if the injector feints their injection. If the injection is made and then before that PC is completed another offence takes place for which a new PC is awarded, the player can return before that new PC starts (while players are setting up for example). Note that the returning player should not 'interfere' with play i.e. they can return but only to the halfway line until the new PC is underway. Remember that if the suspended player is substituted, then the substitute is still bound by the existing rules i.e. they cannot come onto the field of play until the PC (or new award PCs) are all completed.

**Penalties:** a player returning at the wrong time from suspension during PCs should be dealt with sympathetically – this is likely to be a confusing update for many to begin with! Generally we would expect you to ask the player to leave the field again until you call them back on. For now, no additional penalty is likely to be appropriate or required providing you think the infringement is accidental. If you believe the infringement is deliberate, then it should be dealt with as you would for an extra player on the pitch at any other time.

Ginette Tessier

[Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey)

## DISCIPLINE

Just a brief note to say that the Red Card and MMO forms are being updated and will be available from the England Hockey website shortly. Hopefully you won't need them but, if you do, please check that you have the latest version rather than using ones which you had downloaded previously.

## GMS

There have been updates to GMS during the summer in an attempt to make it more responsive and to improve the functionality. If you are still having problems then please ask for assistance within your club, get in touch with us in the SC AOC, or seek guidance from the GMS support e-mail at England Hockey:

[gms.support@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:gms.support@englandhockey.co.uk)

Please be aware though that the support desk are likely to be very busy and your best bet may be to task someone more locally.

## BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW SEASON

As we approach the start of the league season I'd like to wish you all the very best for the new season, whether you are umpiring for your club, undertaking the match official role, or taking neutral appointments.

We are here to facilitate the game that we all love and, hopefully, enjoy ourselves while we are at it.

As usual, please send in pictures that we can use on our social media pages (please follow us on Twitter @scofficiating).

If you have topics which you'd like to see covered in future newsletters then please get in touch and let us know or, better still, write something for the next one that we can use directly.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to all those people, in clubs and within the South Central team, who have worked very hard to try to give you the best hockey experience this season. Far too many of you to name – but we all do appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes.

Simon Milford

Chair, South Central Area Officiating Committee

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