

## Ulster Hockey Club Forum, Monday 4th September 2017

At the last AGM, Article 6 (Umpire Panel) was completely updated to provide greater clarity and flexibility in how the rule will be implemented. There are two aspects to the rule:

### Panel Umpires

Premier and Senior 1 clubs **MUST** nominate at least 1 graded umpire to be available to the panel to officiate neutral appointments from the start of the season (9<sup>th</sup> September).

Nominated panel umpires **MUST** be a graded umpire (minimum Grade C) and be **AVAILABLE** to take umpire appointments for the Ulster Umpire Men's and / or Ladies' panels every week during the season.

### Club Umpires

ALL other 1st XI matches, played in any other Senior league, in the absence of appointed panel umpires, must be umpired by club umpires, or "own umpires".

Clubs **MUST** ensure that their appointed club umpire(s) has/have attained, as a minimum, a candidate umpire qualification in the last 2 years **AND** has/have a valid Ulster Hockey Umpire Registration number.

### 2017 – 2018 Sanctions

In accordance with Article 6d, the Umpires Executive met to consider sanctions and made its recommendations to the Ulster Hockey Management Board who have approved the following fines for 2017-18 season.

#### *Panel Umpires: Premier & Senior 1 Clubs*

80% & above	Complied – No sanction
70 – 79%	Up to a £100 fine
60 – 69%	Up to a £200 fine
40 – 59%	Up to a £300 fine
20 – 39%	Up to a £400 fine
01 – 29%	Up to a £500 fine
0%	Up to a £1,000 fine

**Note:** As we have switched to 'fine only' sanctions, the Ulster Hockey Management Board have asked Ulster Umpires to closely monitor clubs' compliance with Article 6a. Should they detect higher levels of noncompliance than in previous seasons, the Ulster Hockey Management Board have agreed to reconsider and strengthen these fines mid-season.

There will be two review points during the season. At the First Review Point (16th December 2017), we will advise all Premier and Senior 1 clubs of their compliance to date. For those clubs who have not

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achieved 80% compliance, they will be informed of the **INDICATIVE** fine that could be levied at the Second Review Point (Note: the level of fine could increase or decrease as it will be based on a club's overall compliance during the season as at the Second Review Point). At the Second Review Point (16th April 2018) those clubs who have not achieved an 80% compliance will be issued with an **ACTUAL** fine in accordance with above table. Clubs should expect that the maximum fine for each band will be levied, unless they can present compelling reasons why they failed to comply with Article 6. Throughout the season, Ulster Umpires will be regularly publishing compliance statistics on the umpire's portal ([www.ulsterhockeyumpires.com](http://www.ulsterhockeyumpires.com)). We would encourage clubs to regularly visit the site, view the statistics and if you believe them to be wrong to query them with either Adare Brady (Ladies) or Gareth Herron (Men).

### ***Club Umpires (Senior 2 & 3 Clubs)***

Ulster Umpires do not generally appoint to Senior 2 or Senior 3 matches. As mentioned these clubs now **MUST** ensure that Senior 2 and Senior 3 matches are umpired by Registered Umpires – people who have passed the Ulster Hockey Rules Course and have been given unique registration number. When completing matchcards umpires **MUST** sign the card in the usual manner and also use their registration number. The Umpires Registration Secretary will be checking matchcards for compliance. The following fines will be issued for non-compliance. We will start to monitor compliance from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

<b>1st Offence</b>	Warning letter – no fine
<b>2nd Offence</b>	£25 fine
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; all subsequent offences during the season</b>	£50 fine

As in the past, the Umpires Committee are happy to work with clubs to help you meet your obligations. We will be running rules courses in the autumn, so look out for the dates – these will be published on the Umpires Portal and on the Ulster Hockey website. If your club has sufficient numbers we will consider running rules courses for your club - or perhaps two or three local clubs could group together and we could run a course in your area – so there should be no reason why clubs cannot get at least one person on to a rules course. Our basic objective is to do everything that we can to help clubs meet their responsibilities; thereby avoiding fines; but clubs need to understand that we cannot do this alone.

### **Umpires Portal**

The Ulster Hockey Umpires Portal [www.ulsterhockeyumpires.com](http://www.ulsterhockeyumpires.com) is a rich source of information for:

- Umpire appointments for your 1<sup>st</sup> XI matches (Premier & Senior 1)
  - Umpire appointments for IHL, ISC, IJC, IHT and IHC matches
  - The latest match details of Premier, Senior 1 and Irish fixtures being played in Ulster
  - Contact details of all umpires on the panel;
  - News Items from the world of umpiring
  - Details of Rules Courses, Roadshows and other Umpire Events.
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In addition, each club has its own secure page on the portal, where information relating to forthcoming matches is displayed, fixture details, umpire appointments (including contact details); information related to the availability of your panel umpires (very handy if you want to manage your nominated umpire availability targets for 2017-18) and contact information relating to your club. If you have not already done so, please ensure that someone from your club reviews and updates this information before the start of the season – particularly the contact details of your Match Secretary.

## **Fixtures and Appointments**

Ulster Hockey are responsible for entering the Fixture Information in 'FixturesLive' which is linked to the Umpires Portal. Match Secretaries are responsible for informing the UH Fixture Secretary (Ann Shiels / Raymond Hughes) **AND** the appropriate Umpire Appointment Secretary:

Ladies: Adare Brady

077 3226 5842

[adare.brady@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adare.brady@hotmail.co.uk)

Men: Gareth Herron

078 1398 6713

[gareth.herron@gmail.com](mailto:gareth.herron@gmail.com)

if there are any changes to the time, venue or date of your home 1st XI matches from the Fixture Information published. Match Secretaries should get in the habit of regularly checking their 1st XI fixture details by either logging on to the secure club page on the Umpires Portal, or looking at the published fixtures and appointments for the week ahead.

The job of the Umpire Appointments Secretary can be onerous. But it can be made much easier through careful planning and good communication by and with club Match Secretaries – that means advising the relevant Appointment Secretary in good time, at least 5 – 7 days of any changes to a fixture, so there is sufficient time to advise the umpires and find a suitable replacement.

Failure to provide notice of fixture changes will result in the Umpiring Committee recommending to the Ulster Hockey Management Board that your club is fined for failing to inform the Umpires Appointment Secretary. Normally only the club Match Secretary should contact Umpire Appointments Secretary.

## **Competition Rule 15: Alignment with Article 6a & 6b**

Panel Umpires: Where umpires have not been appointed to a Premier or Senior 1 match; or where one or both appointed umpires do not turn up, the match **MUST** still be played. Rule 15 explains how umpires should be appointed in such a scenario. Neither team can refuse to play because they do not like who will umpire or any adverse impact on their team.

Club Umpires: Where no team or only one team are able to provide a 'Registered Umpire' the match still **MUST** be played. Again Rule 15 explains how umpires should be appointed. In any scenario where a team has not provided a Registered umpire, it will be that club who will be fined.

## **Contacting the Umpiring Committee**

Ulster Hockey Umpires are managed by an Umpiring Committee which reports directly to the Ulster Hockey Management Board. If there are any umpiring issues or matters that you would like the committee to consider (except appointment issues) please contact the Umpiring Committee Honorary Secretary. Gordon Gillespie at [uh.umpires@gmail.com](mailto:uh.umpires@gmail.com)

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