

Article 6 relating to the Ulster Hockey Umpire Panel has two aspects to the rule:

Panel Umpires

Men's and Women's Premier and Women's 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 (11th September 2021).

Nominated panel umpires **MUST** be a graded umpire (minimum Grade C or a Candidate Umpire waiting for assessment) and must be available to take umpire appointments for the Ulster Umpire Men's or Ladies 'panels. Clubs must provide a nominated umpire every week during the season.

Club Umpires

All Premier League, Intermediate League and Senior League 1st XI matches where a Panel Umpire is **not** provided **must** be umpired by Qualified Club Umpires.

Clubs **must** ensure that their appointed Club Umpire(s) has passed the Ulster Hockey Rules Test in the last 2 years (pre January 2021) AND have a valid Ulster Hockey Umpire Registration number. Club Umpires who have not passed a rules test pre January 2021 must complete the Online Rules Test and follow up Modules on the Hockey Ireland eLearning Hub.

2021 – 2022 Sanctions

In accordance with Article 6d, sanctions will be recommended to the Ulster Hockey Management Board according to the following framework for fines for 2021-22 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

NB: Points Deductions are an additional possible sanction (as agreed at the 2020 Ulster Hockey AGM).

Note: 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 will consider increasing fines and points deductions.

There will be two review points during the season. At the First Review Point (16th December 2021), we will advise all Premier and Senior 1 clubs of their compliance to date. For those clubs who have not 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 2021) those clubs who have not achieved an 80% compliance will be issued with an ACTUAL fine in accordance with above table or a possible Points Deduction. 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). We would encourage clubs to regularly visit the site, view the statistics and if you have any queries please raise them with either Lyn Morrow (Ladies) or Neal Hermon (Men).

Club Umpires (Senior 2 & 3 Clubs)

Ulster Umpires will not appoint neutral panel umpires to Senior 2 or Senior 3 matches. As mentioned, these clubs **must** ensure these matches are umpired by Registered Club Umpires – people who have passed the Ulster Hockey Rules Course (pre January 2021) and have been given a unique registration number. When completing match cards umpires **must** sign the card in the usual manner and also use their registration number. Please cc William.stewart0109@gmail.com when returning the cards. The Umpires Registration Secretary will be checking match cards for compliance. The following fines will be issued for non-compliance. Compliance will be monitored from the start of the season

1st Offence	Warning letter – no fine
2nd Offence	£25 fine
3 rd & all subsequent offences during the season	£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 seminars in the Autumn to explain the new IHUA rules course process. Our basic objective is to do everything that we can to help clubs meet their responsibilities; thereby avoiding fines; but we need the support and understanding of clubs as we cannot do this alone.

Umpires Portal

The Ulster Hockey Umpires Portal www.ulsterhockeyumpires.com is a rich source of information for:

- Umpire appointments for your 1st XI matches (Premier, Intermediate & Senior 1)
- Umpire appointments for IHL, ISC, IJC, IHT and IHC matches
- The latest match details of Premier, Senior 1 and Irish fixtures
- News Items from the world of umpiring

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 2021-22) 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 as soon as possible – particularly the contact details of your Match Secretary.

Fixtures and Appointments

Ulster Hockey are responsible for entering the Fixture Information on Gameday. All Match Secretaries are responsible for informing the UH Fixture Secretaries (Ann Shiels /Jamie Shilliday) AND the appropriate Umpire Appointments Coordinators of any changes to date, time, venue or cancellation of the published match details via the relevant 'Match Secretary – Umpires' WhatsApp Group:

Ladies: Lyn Morrow 07813440674

Men: Neal Hermon

Morrowlyn@yahoo.co.uk

nealhermon@yahoo.co.uk

Match Secretaries should get into 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 Co-ordinators 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 Umpire Appointments Co-ordinators in good time, at least 5 – 7 days of any changes to a fixture, so there is sufficient time to advise the umpires or 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 Umpire Appointments Co-ordinators. Normally only the club Match Secretary should contact Umpire Appointments Co-ordinators.

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.

It is the responsibility of the Club Match secretary to check the portal to see if an Umpire has been appointed to a fixture right up until the night before in the event of a late cry off. If no Umpire has been appointed, they should then arrange for a suitable Umpire to be provided.

Club Umpires: Where no team or only one team can 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.

When signing the card after the match, please ensure that the card is signed legibly and that an Umpire number is on the card, if the Umpire cannot be identified you will not be credited with having umpired the match.

Please ensure that for Premiership, Senior 1 or Intermediate league matches that no Umpire has been appointed that William.stewart0109@gmail.com is cc'ed when returning the card.

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.

George Redpath at gredpath@lumenid.co.uk
