

RETURN to PLAY What it means for Umpires

I have written these notes from my own experiences. They are to help and perhaps answer the type of questions I needed to ask when I wondered how I could Return to Play.

The easiest/quickest way to get the information you need is to log on to the EH website at www.englishockey.co.uk

Find and click on Covid-19 Support.

You will see the heading: Step 4 Guidance (from 7th August)

The 2 main headings you need are :

1. England Hockey Participation Agreement
2. Advice for Umpires.

EH Participation Agreement.

Click on this heading. This is your starting point for Returning to Play.

Fill in the form *Individual Consent for Participating in Hockey*.

Question 2 allows you to enter the number of Clubs & Organisations you wish to name.

Question 6 is where you can select Clubs starting with letters A-L.

Question 7 is where you can select Clubs starting with letters M-Z and Organisations such as YHUA, NHUA, etc. Clubs & Organisations are all in alphabetical order.

Once you choose *Consenting Myself* for Question 10, extra questions will appear for you to fill in.

Naming Organisations such as YHUA & NHUA will only cover you when you are appointed by that Organisation.

For umpiring Friendly matches for any Clubs (or as a Member of a Club, you need to choose the Club name(s) in Questions 6 & 7.

You can always fill another form in later if you wish to umpire for another Club or Clubs.

Once you have pressed Submit, you should receive a reply email from EH, entitled *Confirmation of Participation Agreement*. You will receive an email for every form you submit. This shows the Clubs/Organisations you have chosen. It suggests you print off the confirmation, and take it with you to all sessions/matches organised by that Club/Organisation.

I believe the form also goes to the Covid Officer for each Club/Organisation you have chosen.

EH Advice for Umpires.

Click on this heading. I suggest you print off this 3 page document, read it carefully, and take it with you when umpiring.

My Experiences umpiring at Sheffield University Bankers.

I was asked to umpire a training session – a game played by 2 SUB teams, with a mixture of players from 1st-7th XI teams.

I had to fill in another EH *Individual Consent for Participating in Hockey* form, as I had only chosen YHUA, ERHUA & NHUA on my first form.

When I arrived at the ground, we had to wait for the previous sessions players to leave the cage.

Once they had left, all the players, the 2 umpires & any spectators who wished to enter the cage had to scan their Apple/Android mobile phone to the QR Reader that was pinned to the fence near the gate. As it was the first time, the Covid Officer helped us to do it right.

[NB QR Reader App can be found on Play Store and uploaded for free. I suggest you do this prior to going to the venue.]

The Covid Officer for SUB & EH then have a record of all persons present for that session in the cage. I believe this can act as a Track & Trace if anyone is later found to have Covid-19.

There were no showers available. People went home once they left the cage.

Participants will need to make their own way to sessions.

Car sharing – Read Pages 7 & 13 of *Step 4 Guidance in full*. (Suggest you read all this document – it is very instructive -26 pages.)

This was how it was done at SUB. I cannot say how other Clubs will handle their sessions. It will be interesting to hear how other Clubs are managing it.

REMEMBER: There is NOT one size to fit all.

Umpires need to be aware of each Club's protocol and follow how they have decided to interpret the guidelines. Please find out the protocols well before the day of your game.

These notes are for Level 4 hockey – training, inter Club and Friendly matches.

I have no idea whether there may be other procedures for Level 5 – League matches.

YOU MUST FILL IN & SUBMIT AN *Individual Consent for Participating in Hockey Under Covid-19 Restrictions* form. You will NOT be able to participate in any game without having done this!

Barrie Pollard (YHUA Chief Coach)

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