

## **Level 1 assessments within Middlesex and for MHUA**

I have compiled some guidance notes and observations for those of you doing level 1 assessments for your clubs and for MHUA, based mainly around what I have seen over the last season or so.

(a) There is one question on the form that I think a candidate needs to be scoring a 4 on minimum to pass - "made accurate decisions" - in my opinion - and this would be my guidance to yourselves also - if it's a 3 or lower **then** the assessor needs to have a real think about why the candidate should be passing the assessment. Are the majority of the other key elements also a low score? (e.g. mobility and positioning, timing of decision making?). If "made accurate decisions" is not a high score then perhaps the game should become a coaching session instead of an assessment, i.e. tell the candidate that is what happening, e.g. at half time if possible to set expectations.

The reason for me stating this - I have seen several forms coming in recently where decision making has been scored as a 3. I have also seen some games where level 1 umpires have been weak in my opinion; if I had been assessing them on that game then I would not have passed them.

Qualified level 1 umpires in Middlesex need to be able to do a Middlesex women's division 2 game easily, that should be what we are aiming for as a minimum standard. I have also watched games at this level and - especially since the self pass - these level of games are reasonably paced and do flow, hence require the umpire to show anticipation for where the ball might go and mobility therefore.

If you are arranging a level 1 assessment on a Middx Women's league match, you **must** adhere to the league rules on only using an unassessed umpire on the lowest level game for your club. NB that the league do check the qualification of an umpire on their match sheets. Points will be deducted from clubs that do not provide assessed umpires for the appropriate games.

The level 1 assessor must state the precise Division of the league match and also whether it is a men's or women's match. I am re-issuing the level 1 assessment form (see attached) which captures this information. If the information is blank, I will send it back and ask for it to be completed!

*Addendum – Effective 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – from the Middlesex Women's league:*

*It has been agreed with the Middlesex Hockey Umpires' Association that effective 1 January 2017 Level 1 Umpire assessments may take place on games in Divisions 2 and 3 of the Middlesex Ladies' League. This is an experimental rule which will be reviewed at the end of the season.*

*Please can you forward this on to your Umpire Co-ordinators as appropriate.*

*Should anyone have questions regarding the training and assessing of umpires with a view to achieving the Level 1 qualification please direct these to Ruth Busse at [ruthbhockey@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbhockey@gmail.com) who is the Level 1 Co-ordinator.*

*Please could captains note on their match reports if an assessment has taken place during the game and out of courtesy to your opposition please also try to advise them prior to the game.*

*Liz Laird, Middlesex Women's League Secretary*

(b) MHUA's preference is for senior club umpires to screen un-assessed umpires before they have their level 1 assessment. This would help to ensure that the candidate is ready for their assessment and to give them some good game practise with a more senior umpire present to answer questions on the scenarios that arise.

(c) I have also been asked for some tips for un-assessed umpires - how can they prepare? Obviously knowing the rules of the game would be a top priority. Could the candidate get to a higher standard of game and watch the umpires? Could they do a practise game or games with other colleagues and ask for feedback?

### **Guidance notes on booking a level 1 assessment**

(1) Please send all coaching and level 1 assessment requests directly to **myself** in the first instance and I will channel the enquiry appropriately.

(2) For a level 1 assessment or coaching, we would typically need a **minimum** of 2-3 weeks notice, a timeslot/venue and information on the match itself (men's/women's, which division/league).

(3) For a level 1 assessment, we must have the England Hockey registration number of the candidate before the assessment game can be arranged.

Any questions on any of this, as usual, please feel free to ask!

Ruth Busse  
MHUA Hon Level 1 co-ordinator  
[ruthbhockey@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbhockey@gmail.com)