

Level 2

The Southern Counties Hockey Umpiring Association ("[SCHUA](#)") is the EH nominated appointing body that supports the highest level regional divisions in the southeast. It is this association through which Level 2 umpires are qualified and subsequently appointed to games in South Premier 1 and 2 (men's) and South 1 and 2 (ladies)–these are partly fed by the MBBO and Trysports leagues respectively.

Requirements

There are two main requirements for obtaining your Level 2 qualification whereby you must demonstrate you 1) are able to umpire and manage players to a suitably high standard and, 2) can pass a fitness test to meet the physical demands of the games sought to be umpired.

1) Quality of Umpiring

Level 2 umpires must be able to competently officiate the highest-level regional games so therefore are required to have an excellent understanding of the rules and the ability to implement them whilst effectively managing players on the pitch. Therefore those interested should be consistently performing to a high standard when officiating top-level county matches of their chosen gender (so are likely on BHUA's Grade 1 panel); these are:

- Men's games = MBBO Regional 1 / London League Premier
and / or
- Ladies games = South 3A

2) Fitness

The fitness requirement SCHUA imposes is based on the interested umpire's own gender (not the gender of matches they wish to umpire) and is in the form of either a [Beep Test](#), running 20 m shuttles with increasing speed, or [Cooper Test](#), running as far as possible in 12 minutes. Minimum fitness requirements are shown in the table below (correct as of the 2017-2018 season).

Fitness Test	Male Umpires	Female Umpires
Beep	Level 7.5	Level 6.5
Cooper	2,100 m	1,900 m

If you are of a suitable fitness and looking to progress but currently not regularly being appointed to games within the aforementioned leagues (perhaps on the Grade 2 panel), get in contact with the Coaching Coordinator and relevant Appointment Secretary ([Committee](#)). Where possible, they will then look to appoint you to higher-level county games with the support of strong colleagues and / or official coaching in order to help you develop.

Progression to Level 2

If you meet the requirements outlined above and would like the opportunity to potentially obtain your Level 2 qualification through SCHUA, the process by which this is achieved is as follows. Note, the Nomination phase should be part of an ongoing conversation between the candidate and Coaching Coordinator / relevant Appointments Secretary so please do be proactive with your communication.

1) Nomination

BHUA Committee (incl. Coaching Coordinator & Appointments Secretary) decide if candidate is ready for L2:

- ✘ **No** - continue appointing to county level with coaching support
- ✔ **Yes** - BHUA contacts SCHUA in order to arrange a county level screening match

2) County Screening

Candidate will be appointed to a highest-level county game on which a SCHUA Selector will assess them:

- ✘ **Fail** - continue appointing to county level with coaching support
- ✔ **Pass** - BHUA submits "L2 Candidate Form" to SCHUA
 - candidate is set-up with an account on SCHUA website in order to enter availability

3) Level 2 Assessment

Candidate will be appointed by SCHUA to a regional-level game for their final assessment:

- ✘ **Fail** - candidate returns to county level; they can be nominated again in future
- ✔ **Pass** - candidate is awarded their EH Level 2 Umpiring qualification – congratulations!

What about the fitness test?

Your fitness level will likely be assessed during your screening and assessment matches. If any doubt arises, you may be required to run either the Beep or Cooper Test being watched by an approved SCHUA official. Note, however, that all SCHUA umpires are required to run and pass one of these fitness tests annually, typically pre-season at the association's "South Day" AGM.

Umpiring for SCHUA and BHUA?

Appointments received from SCHUA take priority over those from BHUA. You will only receive appointments on the same day from BHUA if 1) you are willing to umpire multiple games, and 2) there is a county-level game at a suitable time and venue taking place after your appointment from SCHUA. If you are on SCHUA's Reserve List, you may still take a county-level appointment but please advise the relevant BHUA Appointment Secretary first!