**INFORMATION ON BECOMING A UKAF ACO UMPIRE**

The process for qualifying as an Umpire is through the **ECB ACO** (English Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials) and because you are a serving member of the Armed Forces through the **UKAF ACO** (United Kingdom Allied Force Association of Cricket Officials) to which you will be affiliated (just like all Counties which are affiliated to the ECB ACO).

The Head of Training and Education for the UKAF ACO is Lieutenant Commander Glenn Duggan, Royal Navy retired, who can be contacted on 07771 605320 and glenn.m.duggan@ntlworld and the Deputy Head of Training and Education is SSgt Simon Mellor 07747102476 and simon.mellor@hotmail.co.uk Please contact them if you have any questions or queries.

To start the process you should go to the ECB ACO Web Site at the following link to register for a course: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/officials/find-a-course> There you will find several courses listed to suit your initial needs.

If you click on “It's Your Call - Umpiring Courses” and Click on “Find a Course”. Here you will find the above courses listed. We would encourage you to register and undertake the “Basics of Umpiring” on line course to give you a flavour of what to expect further into your cricket umpire learning.

Because of Coronavirus the ECB ACO commenced a trial of inviting ‘would be’ umpires to undertake the Level 1 Course on line, for free, which was not available previously. Approximately 10,000 people have applied in this way and as a result some 3,000 to 4,000 have successfully completed Level 1 in this way. The link to the free Level 1 On line Course is at: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/f34d46f4-afe5-4459-94d7-4ab66ab0235c>

The ECB ACO are now working on compiling an on line Level 2 course which unlike Level 1 will be partially tutored. It must be stressed that Level 2 is not expected to be available for some time yet.

**Basics of Umpiring**

The ‘Basics of Umpiring Resource’ contains the umpiring basics ranging from the key Laws to basic field craft. Use this resource as you wish, view it once or return frequently to refresh your knowledge. This resource is free for you to improve the game day experience for yourselves, your teammates and your opposition!

**UKAF ACO Stage 1 & Stage 2 Course**

When you have successfully completed the “Basics of Umpiring Resource”, or the on line Level 1 Course then as a military person you can apply to join a UKAF ACO Combined Umpire Stage 1 and Stage 2 course. These courses take place 3 times per year at Military Establishments. One is hosted by the Royal Navy, one by the Army and one by the Royal Air Force. The Tutors for these courses are qualified ECB ACO Tutors and are members of the UKAF ACO.

You may well ask “Why should I undertake the Level 1 Course again when I have completed it on-line?” The reason is that there is no substitute for being in a group setting where questions and answers take place. We find it invaluable to have a group inter-action and someone may ask a question or two that you had never considered.

The Courses run from Monday morning to Friday afternoon. The first two days are dedicated to the Stage 1 Course with the third and fourth days dedicated to Stage 2. The fifth day is a Club Scorers Course and Umpires are encouraged to attend so as to understand the relationship between Scorer and Umpire which is so important for the correct management of the match.

**Umpire Stage One - Content**

This course is designed to give you an overview of the basic Laws of the game and how to apply them and introduce the principles of field craft and match management. It will give you the tools to enable you to umpire matches at the basic recreational level where there are no independent umpires appointed.

**Umpire Stage Two – Content**

This course is designed to give you further knowledge and skills sufficient to enable you to become a member of a league panel and is available to anyone who has attended the Stage One. It will complement that course by looking beyond the basic laws, build on field craft and match management techniques and introduce the concept of working, as a team, with a colleague.

**UKAF ACO Stage 3 Course**

After qualifying from the combined Stage 1 and Stage 2 course and having gained experience “standing” in both civilian and service cricket, most umpires would want to progress. The next stage is the Stage 3 Course and this is held once a year by the UKAF ACO. This course is designed for experienced umpires who aspire to stand at the highest level of league cricket and is available to anyone who has attended the Stage One and Two courses. As well as the interpretation and application of Law this course also covers the management of the match, the field and the players on it. Man management and other practical aspects are also covered. This course will be suitable for those umpires who want to develop their skills to be the best umpire they can be.

Anyone interested in undertaking the Stage 3 Course should contact the Performance Officer - FSgt Martin Seward on 01407 888529 or martin.seward@ascentflighttraining.com to discuss what is required prior to making application on the ECB ACO Courses Web Site.

**Umpires’ Support and Development Programme - Explained**

There are two levels of accreditation – Umpire 2 Accreditation (U2A) following attendance at a Stage 2 course and Umpire 3 Accreditation (U3A) following attendance at a Stage 3 course.

Accreditation level at U2A (or working towards) is a minimum requirement of many leagues and, to be considered for a Premier League, accreditation at U3A is a necessity.

All umpires can benefit from support irrespective of their experience but for new and developing umpires it is essential. The programme involves the use of experienced umpires as mentors and coaches who can provide encouragement and guidance that will enable all umpires to improve their match management capabilities.

The programme concentrates on self-assessment whilst working with a mentor. Candidates will identify their own issues, understand what they need to do to improve. This will help develop the appropriate strategy to move forward.

Having satisfied your County Development Officer that you have achieved the required certificate you will then receive a Certificate of Achievement.

**Umpire Grading – Explained**

Once qualified umpires are subject being graded. Grading was introduced to enable umpires to know what level of cricket they are currently umpiring and, for those with ambitions to progress, to advise them what the next step up is on the progression pyramid.

It also gives appointers an indication of those who may be able to stand at a higher level, either because they are ready to progress or because they have umpired successfully at that level in the past and are still considered capable of doing so.

All grading is evidential based on where an umpire has officiated with successful outcomes in the previous season.

There are six grades from C1 to C6 and these are used as follows:

C1 – has been appointed to a minimum of six matches in ECB Premier Leagues; they should also have an educational qualification of, or be working towards, Level 2 or should hold its equivalent of GL5 or 4 under the previous regime

C2 – has been appointed to a minimum of six matches in a league designated by the ACO as the second tier of cricket in the county

C3 – has been appointed to a minimum of six matches in a league designated by the ACO as the third tier of cricket in the county

C4 – has been appointed to a minimum of six matches in a league designated by the ACO as the fourth tier of cricket in the county

C5 – has been appointed to a minimum of six matches that are in a league designated by the ACO as the fifth tier of cricket in the county or are deemed by the CPO to be of an equivalent standard

C6 – No longer actively umpiring or because the County Performance Officer is unaware of the level of league in which the umpire is standing. If the latter is the case then the umpire should contact his/her County Performance Officer

You can also append a \* to the grade. This designates that the umpire is ready and willing to progress to the next level.

There are also some umpires who have umpired at a higher level but now, for whatever reason, choose to stand at a lower level. If these umpires are still considered capable of officiating at that higher level this should be made clear in the grading.

Thus an umpire standing in a C3 league but who has previously officiated at C1 level, and is still capable of doing so, would be graded C3+2.

**DBS Certification - Explained**

In order to officiate you will have to have CRB clearance. When you are registering with the ECB ACO you will be sent details for applying for a DBS certificate and they will start the process for you.

If you have any questions about using the DBS application system, please contact ecb.aco@ecb.co.uk

All members are now able to apply for a DBS renewal online. When your DBS certificate is due for renewal you will be contacted by the ECB ACO to start the renewal process.