

YPLN Umpires' Association Newsletter

Issue 2, August 2024



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Winter umpire courses



We are working to get umpire courses arranged in the YPLN region for the winter months. There are various levels which will appeal to people at different stages of their umpiring career:

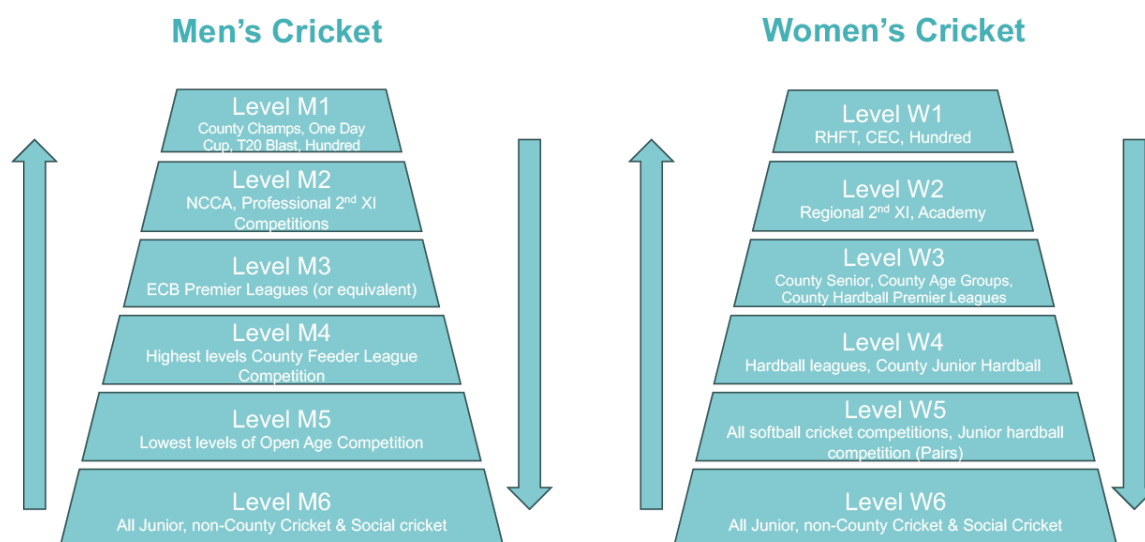
1. ECB Introduction to Umpiring Course. This is for people who have not been on an umpiring course before. No prior umpiring experience is necessary. Unlike the old Level 1 / 2 courses, which risked being “death by PowerPoint”, it is a mix of classroom and practical training. If you don’t already have an umpiring “grade” (e.g. “M6”) then this course is the only way to get one (see next page for more info).
2. Continual Professional Development courses. The YCB offer three levels of CPD course (“C”, “B” and “A”) for various levels of umpire experience and have asked if we want them to arrange any. The YPLN may also arrange its own CPD courses.
3. “Refresher” courses for experienced umpires. These are useful as a reminder of the rarer things that umpires may have forgotten about.

We are in the process of booking at least one or two of the ECB Intro courses for the winter in the YPLN region and will release information as soon as venues and dates are confirmed.

We are also looking into getting CPD and Refresher courses arranged.

All current ECB Introduction to Umpiring Courses can be found using this tool <https://www.ecb.co.uk/course-finder> but, as mentioned, we hope to get YPLN-region venues added to this list soon. Note: the other types of course will not show on this page but we will advertise them separately.

ECB Umpire Pathway



The ECB introduced a new “Umpire Pathway” in 2023. It’s still early days, but it is getting up and running now. The idea is that umpires will have a clearer path to reaching higher grade cricket, with observations from experienced umpires to help us develop.

There are six grades for men’s cricket and six for women’s cricket (M6/W6 up to M1/W1), as shown above. The relevant grades for umpires in the main YPLN League divisions are M6 to M3. For new umpires, attendance at an ECB Introduction to Umpiring Course gets them on the ladder at M6/W6 level. Umpires who had already done one of the old-style courses will have been given a “grandfathered” grade in 2023.

When an umpire wishes to move up a grade they submit a request form (which is only possible during a time window at the start of each season) and then work to satisfy the requirements of that particular promotion. In summary these requirements are:

M6 to M5: Umpire 5 games and pass an online test

M5 to M4: Umpire 7 games of which 1 is observed, and pass an online test

M4 to M3: Umpire 10 games, of which 2 are observed, and pass an online test

More detail on this process can be found at <https://www.yplncricket.co.uk/general-information/> in the “Umpire Documents” section.

This process is managed by Nigel Thornton at the YCB. At the start of each season he will ask umpires to submit promotion request forms if they wish to move up a grade. We will remind Association members about this when the application window opens next year.

It’s important to say that you do not need to have a grade to umpire in the YPLN (except in the Premier Division), but we would recommend that new umpires consider getting one even if they don’t anticipate moving up the pathway, as it may help in future.

League “Most Valuable Player” Rankings



This has nothing to do with umpiring, so forgive us for including it, but it may be of interest to those who have a link to a particular club.

The league has developed a new MVP ranking for players in each division. It’s not meant to be taken too seriously but may be entertaining (or annoying?) for players. The methodology is being tested in the latter weeks of the 2024 season and will be rolled out properly in 2025. It’s anticipated that the MVP in each division will be recognised at the AGM and/or Presentation Dinner, as well as in league communications.

The rankings can be found here: <https://www.yplncricket.co.uk/mvp/>

Current Div 1 MVP ranking (top 20 only):

Rank	Player	Club	Batting			Bowling			Fielding			MVP Points
			Runs	50s	100s	Wickets	5 Wickets	Economy	Catches	Stumpings	Runouts	
1	Tom Atkinson	Bolton Percy CC	794	3	3	30	0	3.57	8	0	0	90
2	Ashley Wills	Kirkella CC	520	5	0	39	3	3.78	3	0	0	80
3	Josh Dawson*	Filey CC	301	2	0	32	1	2.59	10	0	1	78
5	Joe Raynor	South Milford CC	273	2	0	46	3	3.95	6	0	1	74
4	James Hattee	Osbalwick CC	566	6	0	27	0	3.45	8	0	1	76
6	Dave Johnson	Sessay CC	432	2	1	24	2	3.59	9	0	1	64
7	Luke Ingram	South Holderness CC	735	4	3	15	1	4.7	5	0	0	63
8	Kieran Bowes	Pickering CC	378	2	1	27	1	3.49	7	0	1	62
9	Ben McWalter	Bolton Percy CC	204	1	0	38	2	3.86	4	0	1	59
10	David Brannan*	Filey CC	403	2	0	25	2	4.17	7	0	2	59
13	Graham Knott	Heworth CC	19	0	0	37	3	2.89	2	0	0	54
11	Andy Kingston	North Cave Coal Exporters CC	208	1	0	30	1	3.45	6	0	0	55
15	Alex Bell	Heworth CC	39	0	0	35	2	3.39	7	0	0	52
12	James Peart	Osbalwick CC	458	1	1	23	1	4.84	7	0	0	54
14	Shaun Tate	Middleton & North Dalton CC	473	4	0	25	1	4.7	2	0	0	53
16	Max Harland	Pickering CC	111	1	0	29	1	3.6	12	0	0	52
17	Abdus Samad	Cottingham CC	142	1	0	29	2	3	3	0	2	51
19	Laurence Wilkinson	Hull Zingari CC	131	1	0	32	1	3.48	3	0	0	49
20	Lee Wild	Selby CC	120	0	0	28	1	2.76	4	0	0	49

Questions from members

Please send these to matt1857@gmail.com and we'll do our best to answer them.

The following questions came in from club umpires this month:

“I’m having difficulties getting team sheets and match balls prior to the toss. Some captains have made me feel like I’m being officious in asking for them. This tells me that not all officials are asking for these which could lead to problems during the game.”

Team sheets must be provided to you by both captains at the toss. This is partly because it allows you to confirm the names of any under-age players. You need this to ensure that young fast bowlers are protected from physical injury (via the ECB Fast Bowling Directive), as well as observing restrictions on young wicketkeepers wearing helmets etc. Most importantly, safeguarding concerns mean that under-age players need particular protection from verbal abuse and other mistreatment.

Match balls are another matter. It’s perhaps good form for captains to give them to you, but in practice you only really need to check each ball before the start of the innings in which it will be used. If the captain batting first wants to keep his until after tea then you can apply some discretion here and let him do this. One positive is that you will avoid the nightmare scenario of mixing up the teams’ balls.....

“If a team arrives without a scorer, can I make them field with ten men in order that one player can do the scoring?”

No, you do not have the power to do this.

Sadly, scorers are hard to find, and can also be ill at the last minute. If a team doesn’t bring one that’s not ideal, and when they are batting they should certainly provide a team member to help the lone scorer, but they are entitled to field with 11 players.

“What’s the best way to deal with criticism or barracking from players or spectators outside the rope?”

This touches on questions about reporting disciplinary offences, which needs a full article in itself (hopefully next month). However, a brief answer would be:

a) Players sitting beyond the rope (or any club officials from either team)

This is no different to players on the field. We all hear some moaning from beyond the rope from time to time and can safely turn a deaf ear to some of it. However, if a watching player says something that crosses the line (e.g. serious verbal abuse) then do exactly the same thing you would do if a player on the field said it. Stop the game, consult with your colleague, and follow the steps laid out in Law 42 (more on this next time).

b) Spectators

This is more complicated. However, it is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that umpires are not abused by anyone, including spectators. This is particularly the case as it is very likely that the spectators are linked to the club in some way (sad to say, you don't get a huge number of genuinely independent spectators at our games).

You can probably tolerate a bit more "banter" from spectators than from watching players. But again, if the language crosses the line into abuse, stop the game, call your colleague over, and speak to the home captain. Either he, or a club official, has to deal with the spectators in question. Then, once the game is over, you have the option to report the incident even if no players were involved. (Of course, if the spectators are clearly supporters of the visiting team, speak to the visiting captain.)

If a captain claims that spectators are nothing to do with him, reassure him that the league does not agree. Earlier in 2024 a YPLN club was sanctioned for an incident where an umpire leaving the field to go to their changing room was sworn at and accused of bias by a spectator.

"There was an incident that I am concerned about, but I am not sure whether I should report it. Can I run it past another umpire first?"

Yes, if you want, you can send an email in with the general description, and we can give some guidance as to what the best route would be. However, if you do this, it's very important that you do not include the names of any players – that is information that should only be given to the YPLN Disciplinary Team, if you go on to submit a formal report.

That's all for this month, but please continue to send in ideas for articles, and questions that you would like answered. Enjoy the last few games of the season.

Matt Harris

YPLN