



November 2018



## Message from the President

A new season is upon us and this one should prove an exciting one. Batteries have been recharged, new whistle, astros and shirts bought, preseason friendlies under the belt, refreshing read of the rules, umpire briefing understood and we're ready to go. Preparation for the reorganisation of the National and North Leagues in the 2019/20 season will give more teams the chance to gain promotion and this will also feed down to the Yorkshire Leagues. This will mean that towards the end of the season more teams will have something to play for. It may also mean that next season there will be more pressure on clubs to provide suitably qualified umpires for their games. As the National League becomes bigger they will draw up umpires from the regions that will then need to draw up from the counties who will then require clubs to provide more umpires. It could be that we may need to look into how umpires are appointed to games at the county level. Your committee will be looking at this so that sensible recommendations can be made to the League Committee to consider. It will also be vitally important that we put in place measures to help develop our club umpires with the use of club umpire developers and the wider use of our qualified county coaches.

I found this in an old copy of the Whistler written by the late lamented Chris Todd (vastly experienced international umpire and Level 3 umpire coach) and thought that I'd share it with you again. Something to think about as we head into the new season:

### *The many C's of Umpiring*

- Concentration
  - Calmness and Coping with pressure
    - Composure and Coolness
      - Communication
      - Co-operation
    - Confidence with Common sense
      - Courage
      - Convincing
      - Consistency
  - avoid being Casual and Complacent
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## League Reorganisation 2019/20

A new league season is upon us and the coming months will certainly be a very competitive time for clubs. With the reorganisation of the National leagues for next season it may well mean that there will be promotions on offer for next year, giving more clubs something to aim for in their games. What happens at the higher levels will undoubtedly filter down to the county leagues. As I understand it and put as simply as I can get it:

On the men's side:

- The top four in the North Premier will be promoted to the North Conference in the National League, with no relegations.
- They will be replaced by the top four in North Division 1.
- These will be replaced by the top two teams from each of the North Division 2 (East and West).
- The teams that finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Division 2s will play off for the opportunity to play the team that finishes last in Division 1 for the last place in Div 1.
- The top team in Yorkshire Premier Division will be promoted to North Division 2 East.
- The team that finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> in Yorkshire Prem will play off against the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in the North East League for the opportunity to play the team that finishes last in North Div 2 East for the last place in that division.
- The current North Division 2 East and West will become the new East and West Pennine Premier Division.
- A new regionalised Division below this will be created to be called Division 1 North and South for both East and West. This will be formed from those teams left over from the old Div 2 East and the top of the current County Leagues.

On the women's side:

- Top four in North Premier Division promoted to Investec Conference North with no relegations.
- Top four teams in North Div 1 will be promoted to North Prem with no relegations.
- The top team from each of the four Div 2s will be promoted to Div 1 without the need for the usual playoffs.
- A new division below North Div 1 will be created to form a West Pennine Premier and an East Pennine Premier. This will be made up of the next 6 teams from each of the current North Div 2s
- On our side of the hill the next division will become East Pennine Division 1 North and South which will be made up of the remaining teams in the current Div 2s and made up to 12 from the top of the County leagues.

The Yorkshire County leagues will be reorganised to ensure there are 12 teams in each division.

I hope that is clear, but I may have got it wrong. Here are diagrams of what is to happen at the end of this season if that's easier to understand.

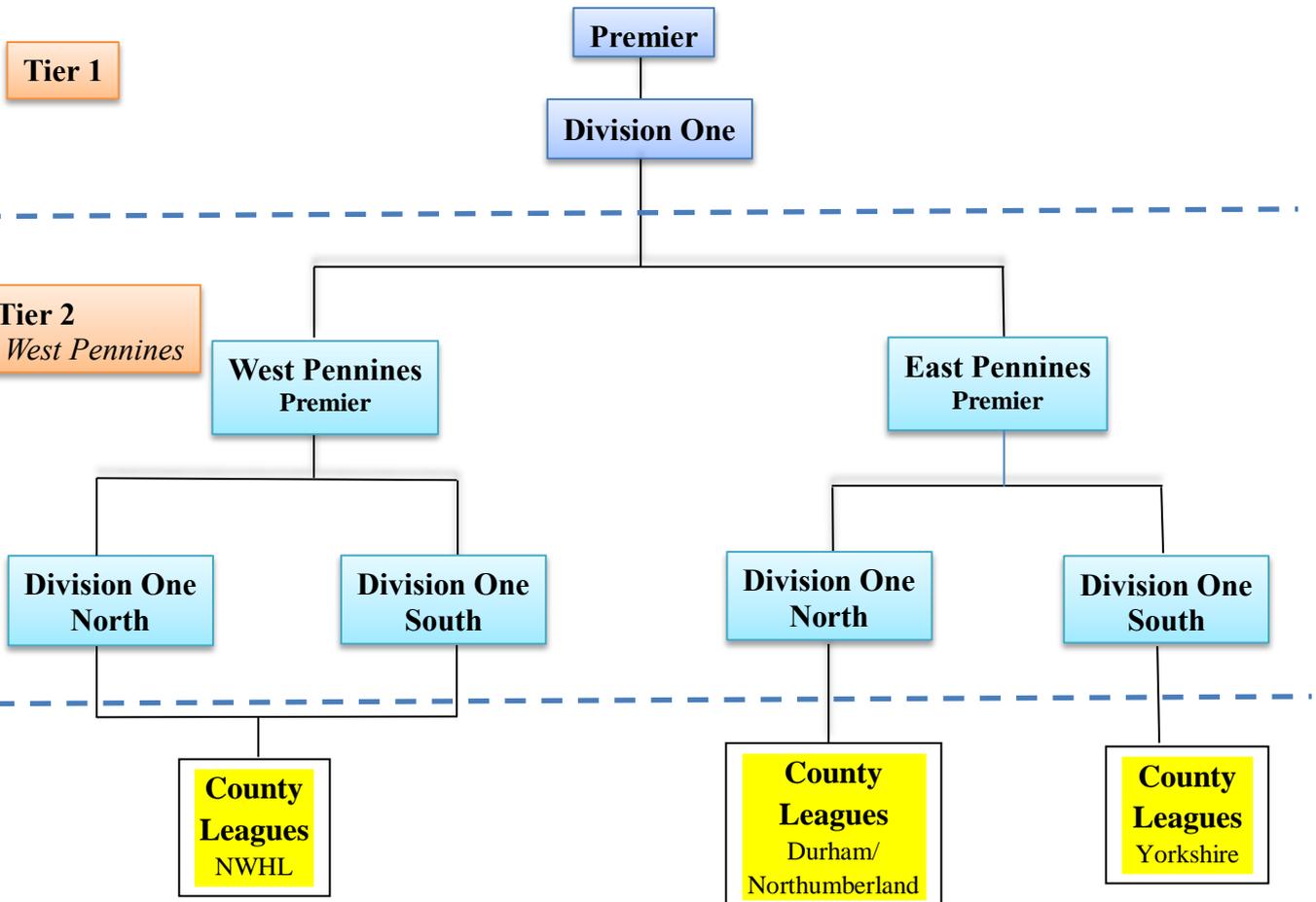
# Promotion / Relegation (Men)

North Prem	North 1	North 2 West	North 2 East	Yorkshire Prem
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2 v NE 2nd
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12

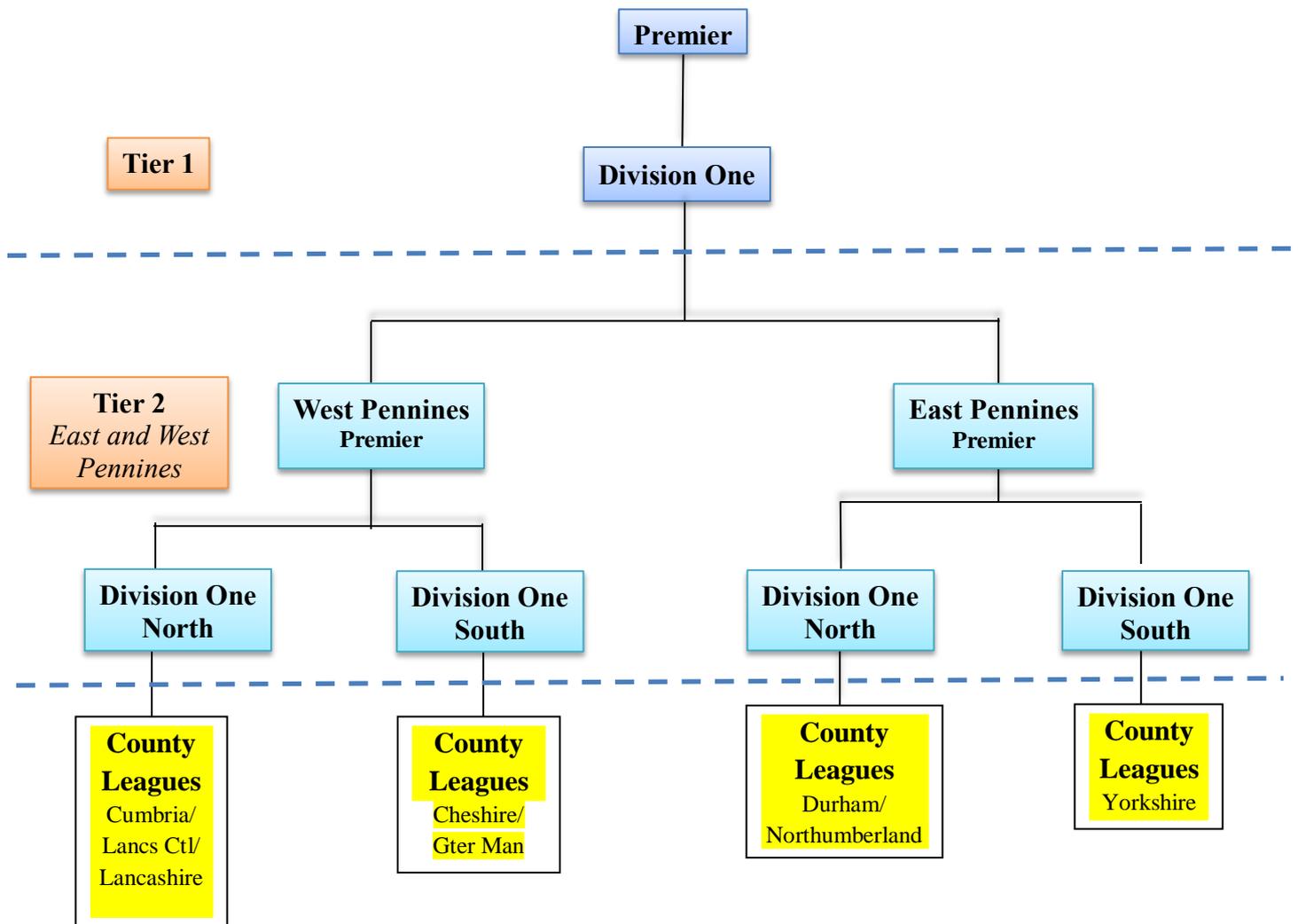
# Promotion / Relegation (Women)

North Prem	North Div 1	4x North Div 2s
4 up to North Conference	4 up to Prem	1 up from each
No Relegations	No Relegations	1 Relegated from each

## New North Regional and Feeder League Structure - Men



## North Regional and Feeder League Structure – Women



Tier 1 games will be officiated by neutrally appointed Regional (Level 2) umpires. Tier 2 games will be officiated by neutrally appointed (where possible) County (Level 1 assessed) umpires. The Tier 2 County umpires will have had a further assessment over and above Club umpire (assessed).

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### RESPONSIBILITIES OF UMPIRES UNDER ENGLAND HOCKEY CODE OF CONDUCT

Why do you umpire? Hopefully because you get enjoyment from the game and being part of the hockey family.

What is your role as an umpire? I would suggest that it is to facilitate two teams, and their supporters, to also enjoy a game of hockey in a safe and welcoming environment.

**There have been too many complaints already this season about umpires not carrying out their responsibilities and, as a consequence, spoiling the game for all those involved.**

Let's look at the umpires responsibilities under the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour.

**(N.B. The Code of Ethics and Behaviour applies to all umpires in all games of hockey played in England).**

***Expected minimum standards of behaviour and conduct***

Umpires will, at all times:

*Respect the spirit of fair play in hockey.* This is more than playing within the rules. It also incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always participating with the right spirit. Umpires should apply the rules consistently throughout the whole game at both ends.

*Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.* There is no place for sexist or misogynistic comments or behaviour on the part of umpires in relation to anyone involved in games which you are umpiring.

*Conduct themselves in a manner that takes all reasonable steps to protect their own safety and the safety of others.* This is seen as a primary responsibility of umpires and covers such things as inclement weather, bad light, dangerous pitch, as well as how the game is being played in front of them.

*Protect others involved in the game from verbal or physical abuse and threatening or intimidating behaviour.*

***Increasing numbers of young players (defined as those under 18) are being incorporated into senior teams. Umpires should be aware of the young players and ensure that they are fairly treated by all.***

*Promote the reputation of the sport and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.*

*Never use inappropriate language or gestures.*

Umpires have the sanctions available to deal with foul and abusive language directed at them. However, hockey is promoted as a game for all the family and the random use of foul language by players on the pitch, not directed specifically at any person, is not acceptable and should be discouraged by umpires. Probably most of us "eff and Jeff" from time-to-time, often out of frustration, but this can be done quietly. When it is so loud as to carry across the pitch and be audible to spectators and the benches the umpires should step in and discourage the player from continuing or repeating.

*Abide by the EH Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy.*

*Amongst the General Principles of which are:*

- 1. The safety and welfare of young people is paramount.***
- 2. For clarity, the Safeguarding Policy and any related procedures and good practice relating to the safeguarding of young people in hockey need to be applied both in relation to activities for young people specifically and where young people may be involved within the adult game, for example, where players or umpires under 18 years of age are incorporated into adult team hockey.***

*Abide by the EH Equality Policy.*

*Abide by the EH Anti-Doping Rules.*

*Take personal responsibility to ensure that they are suitably insured for their activities.*

Umpires are reminded that it is your responsibility to have adequate insurance to cover your umpiring activities. Membership of YHUA will give you insurance cover as part of your annual membership fee.

***What sanctions are available to Umpires?***

Umpires have at their disposal a number of sanctions which can be used when the behaviour of players, officials or spectators is undermining attempts by the Umpire to adhere to the minimum standards of behaviour and conduct set out in the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour.

Players – Umpires can issue personal penalties - green cards, yellow cards, red cards, MMOs (for an offence on match day outside the game time which had it occurred during game time would have resulted in a red card). Don't forget that the captain can also receive a personal penalty not just because of his own misdemeanours but also because of those of his team, and supporters, which he/she fails to bring under control, having been asked to do so. However, remember that the captains should also be allowed to question decisions in a reasonable manner and should not be penalised solely for carrying out their responsibilities as the captain.

Spectators – it is the unacceptable face of any sport if spectators are verbally or physically abusive towards players or officials. In the first instance the captain should be encouraged to persuade the spectator(s) to modify their behaviour and/or seek assistance from a club official to do so. If the unacceptable behaviour continues the umpire may issue a personal penalty to the captain and/or decide to bring a Disrepute Charge against the Club. The use of foul language, on the part of players, officials or spectators is unacceptable and should be stamped on hard. Hockey is a family game and we are looking to encourage young people to choose hockey as their favoured team game, but parents will not be happy if this means their children are exposed to unacceptable language.

**As the body responsible for the quality of umpiring in the county (YHUA) or Region (NHUA) we do not want to have to take action against any umpires because of their inaction.**

**Mike Talbot**  
**Vice President YHUA**  
**November 2018**

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### **Umpire Coaching**

YHUA has a number of umpire coaches that are busy at the week-end helping to improve umpiring in the county and develop our umpires both neutral and club. Already this season our coaches have spent a day with clubs helping with their umpires and umpire developers and performing some Level 1 assessments (sometimes in atrocious weather). Brigg, Chapeltown, Leeds, Leeds Adel and Slazengers have all benefited from this arrangement. If your club would like to avail itself of this service then get in touch with Barrie Pollard (07762 618436) and we'll see what we can do for you.

We have even leant our chief coach, Barrie Pollard, to the North East (at no cost to us) to help them out with coaching. We will also be helping out our Lincolnshire colleagues by inviting some of them to officiate in the Yorkshire league so that they can be coached in a better quality game than they may get back home.

**Congratulations** to Steve Smith of Wakefield who recently passed his Level 3 assessment. Well done and enjoy umpiring in the National League.



Congratulations also to Harry Collinson from Thirsk who was selected to umpire at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. This is an U21 international tournament with teams from Malaysia, India, GB, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Harry had a good tournament and officiated in the Bronze Medal match between Australia and Japan. This was the highest level match he could have been given as GB qualified for the final (which they won against India).



Join us in a closed discussion group, highlighting events that occur in hockey matches that are pertinent and relevant to Yorkshire League club games. If you encounter an incident that you are not sure about or wish to clarify then post it and see what others think. It could

stimulate some lively discussions and it always helps to get the opinions of others. Look for **Yorkshire Hockey Umpires Association**.

Here's one to start with which happened in Midlands League game a couple of weeks ago which could easily occur in a Yorkshire League match at any level and which stimulated a lot of discussion on the North Umpires page.

*It's the last minute of a hard-fought but fair game. It's 2-2. Reds break forward in open play into Blue's D. Blue's GK makes two good saves, then his helmet falls off as the ball rolls towards a Red striker and two Blue defenders. The helmetless GK moves to play the ball and/or block any shot the Red striker might make...*

*Decision and why?*

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## **In Memoriam**

It is with sadness that we report the sad passing of three of our Yorkshire umpiring stalwarts who each gave many years of unstinting service to Hockey Umpiring with their clubs and county. We shall miss them all but their memory will live on in all who they helped by giving their time, encouragement, experience and help to with no thought of reward save the development of the game they loved.

**RIP**

Bernard French  
Howard Spencer  
Graham Seaton

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