



General Information for Prospective Umpires

Q. When does umpiring take place?

- A. Most umpiring work is on Saturday or Sunday. The event might last all day, or it might last for 3-4 hours. This depends on the kind of event.

Q. How often will I be umpiring?

- A. You will be contacted by your Regional Secretary about your availability for events. It is up to you to decide how much time you want to devote to umpiring. The Regional Secretary for each Region, or the Selection Committee for National Events, will allocate events as fairly as possible, based on the availability of umpires and the requirements of the events. *Umpiring is a skill which you need to practice, so the more you do, hopefully, the more you will develop as an umpire.*

Q. What is the Relationship of the BUAofE and Badminton England (BE)?

- A. The BUAofE was founded in 1952 and is a completely separate body to Badminton England. BE requests our services at National Events organised by BE but cannot dictate which Umpires are selected. This allows the BUAofE to select umpires of appropriate grade and experience, yet allowing opportunities to develop our own members. Other opportunities for umpiring are provided at more local events such as Inter-County matches. Occasionally outside bodies request our services – for example, Police Championships, Local District Tournaments and Promotional Events. *Umpires must not carry out duties at events that have not been sanctioned by the BUAofE.*

Q. What are the financial costs involved?

- A. The cost of attending the initial training course is £30 per person; there are no discounts for juniors as the course fees are used to cover the costs of hiring the venue, etc. The course fee is non-refundable. Should you be successful in passing your course you will be expected to join the Umpires Association, which currently costs £35 per year, reduced to £25 if paid by a certain date.

In addition, once you have completed 6 events, you are expected to purchase the uniform of the Association to wear at events. (Current costs are £32.40 for the polo shirt and £42.00 for the fleece jacket, plus P&P of £7.80.) You are also expected to wear smart black trousers/skirt and black shoes (be aware that many venues require non-marking, soft-soled shoes that are never worn outdoors). You will also need a clipboard, and a stopwatch.

Q. Do badminton umpires get paid?

- A. No, umpires do not get paid. You can claim mileage expenses, which are usually paid in May or June, just before the Association's national AGM. Sometimes refreshments are provided by the organisers, but this is at their discretion. There is no sustenance allowance.

Q. How does the Association communicate with its Members?

- A. There is a BUAofE website at buaofe.org.uk, which is accessible to the general public, with a private Members' area, which contains more information directly relevant to working umpires. Once you have joined the Association you will be issued with credentials to access the Members' area. The Members' area of the website includes a copy of our handbook, a uniform order form, and many other useful bits of information.
The majority of direct communication will be between you and the Regional Secretary, and from the National Secretary and Treasurer by email.

Q. How will the Association support my development as an umpire?

- A. There will always be experienced umpires at events, who will be very happy to support you and answer any questions you have. As you become more experienced you may like to be considered for upgrading. After passing a written paper and completing some formal court assessments, you will hopefully then be promoted through the umpiring grades of the Association. The BUAofE also nominates senior umpires to Badminton Europe (BEC) and Badminton World Federation (BWF) from within its active membership for further training, assessment and accreditation.

Q. How is the BUAofE Organised?

- A. The Association is a democratic body in which a National Committee is elected at the AGM from fully subscribed members of all grades. In addition, each Region has its own AGM which elects its own Regional Secretary who is an ex-officio member of the National Committee.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your umpiring, make new friends and progress as far as you want.