



THE BADMINTON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND

General Information for New 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 which they organise, 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 circuit tournaments. 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 will be confirmed by the Training Lead when they contact you to invite you to attend a course; 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 and pay the required membership fee, although this will not be required for the financial year of your course. The membership fee must be paid by 31st March each year in order to remain a member of the BUAofE, regardless of whether you are able to umpire that year. However, if subs are not paid by 28th February, selections for April, May and June will be removed. This is due to the need to ensure that only members of the BUAofE are officiating at these events, and to allow time for replacements to be found. Non-payment will lead to your membership being terminated and you will have to apply for instatement.

In addition, once you are awarded umpire grade, you will be provided with 1 poloshirt, a fleece and a name badge. You are also expected to wear formal 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 July, just before the National AGM. Sometimes refreshments are provided by the organisers but this is at their discretion and there is no sustenance allowance.

Q. How does the Association communicate with its Members?

- A. There is a BUAofE website at www.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 links.

The majority of direct communication will be between you and your Regional Secretary, and from the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the Membership Secretary 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 Umpire, Regional Umpire, National Umpire, Continental Umpire and International Umpire. When you pass your ITC you will be offered the opportunity to become involved in our training and development scheme, which involves working with other umpires of the same grade overseen by a senior umpire. The BUAofE also nominates senior umpires to Badminton Europe (BEC) 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.

Q. I am a qualified umpire from another country looking to join the BUAofE. How can I do this?

- A. Qualified umpires from another national association are welcome to join the BUAofE, if you are able to undertake duties in England. Initially you will be ungraded, and will be assessed at suitable events as soon as possible to determine a grade. This will initially be undertaken at a regional level.

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