



SPECIALIST  
SPORTS



▶ **PRE-SEASON  
BRIEFING  
2020/2021**

*Irish Hockey Umpires Association*



## 2020/2021 Season will be different

### DUE TO COVID-19

The Executive Committee determined that a face-to-face pre-season briefing was not in everyone's best interest. The safety of our members is paramount. Therefore in place of the usual briefing we have decided to introduce the following:

**1** A pre-recorded presentation detailing the important procedural issues, rules updates and things to note. An online, Q&A session, lasting between 1 and 2 hours will then be held on September 12th at 10am. The purpose of this is to clarify any concerns or questions you have on this presentation. Details for this will be emailed to you.

**2** All fitness tests for the first half of the season will be conducted regionally. The dates for these tests will be communicated to you through your provincial Association. The provinces will be responsible for sending these results to the IHUA (via the secretaries).



# TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION



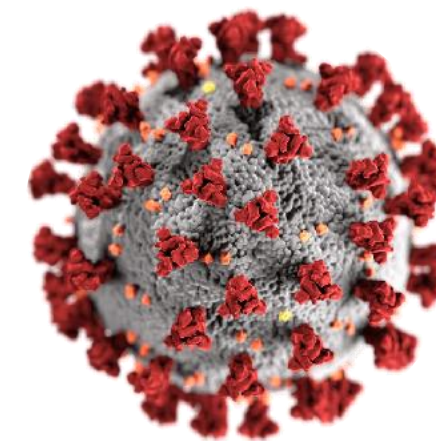
## PITCH SIDE URINATING

Hockey Ireland have released new guidance with regards to how to deal with pitch-side urination both in and outside of match times.



## CODE OF CONDUCT PROCESSES

Based on experiences from last season, we wish to guide members in how to deal with code of conduct issues. This includes what to report and how.



## COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Information on Hockey Irelands procedures for match day, including travel arrangements, new rule guidance for spitting, and the expectations on clubs.



## UMPIRING POINTS FOR THE SEASON

Points to note for the coming season including management, positioning etc. Videos from last year are included.





# PITCH SIDE URINATION



“Urinating close to or at the side of the pitch is not acceptable behaviour.”



On the pitch or in the designated pitch area

An umpire (or match officials, if present) who witnesses a player urinate on the pitch or within the designated playing area, during the entirety of the match (including extra-time and penalties), should issue a red card to that player



Outside of the pitch area at any time

If a player urinates outside the designated playing area at ANY TIME during the match, or if the offence occurs inside or outside the designated playing area before the start or after the end of the match, officials should speak to the manager or captain of the offending player’s team. They should be advised that the player(s) concerned will be reported as a Code of Conduct matter.



Code of conduct management

The manager or captain must provide you with any additional information you need i.e. the name of the offending player(s). ALL cases MUST be reported – there should be NO exceptions. It is solely for the HI Competitions to consider any mitigating factors, if made. All Code of Conduct reports should be sent to [jerome.pels@hockey.ie](mailto:jerome.pels@hockey.ie) within 48 hours and the IHUA Secretary copied in



# MINIMUM STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All Hockey Clubs and Organisations are expected to behave in an appropriate and sporting manner

## AS A GROUP, WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF WHEN TO REPORT CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUES AND HOW TO REPORT THEM

The way in which we report Code of Conduct issues has a significant impact on the sanctions that are provided to players.

We also need to be aware that by not reporting Code of Conduct issues, we may be facilitating poor behaviour

Please be aware of what we should report and how

<https://www.irishhwa.com/public/handbook.php>

## CODE OF CONDUCT





# CODE OF CONDUCT

1

Any behaviour which makes you as an official feel upset, intimidated, or offended, should be considered a Code of Conduct offence. If you are not certain whether your incident warrants report, please seek advice from a member of the IHUA committee asap

2

When completing the Code of Conduct form, it is important to:

- Avoid the use of emotional language
- Complete the form with respect to the specific individuals involved and not their club
- List only what occurred and no more

Colleague

## GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING OF A CODE OF CONDUCT REPORT FORM

The following information should be considered for inclusion in the description of the Code of Conduct incident:

- Before or after the game?
- Was the reported person a player, team official or other (please specify)?
- Whereabouts on the pitch/ground it occurred, and how far away from reporting umpire.
- Were other players or team officials involved in the incident or was it only the person reported?
- In cases of dissent, particularly where foul and abusive language has been used, the description should not be restricted to a general statement. It is necessary that specific details of what was said are stated in full on the report. Write exact words used, or describe any gestures made.
- If the offence is one of "violence used" – what was the exact nature of the force used? Was it deliberate? What was your reaction? Did you feel pain or were you injured? Where was your colleague? Did anyone else become involved? Were there any other witnesses?
- Please add any other relevant information associated to the reported offence(s).

The above advice and guidance is intended to help the umpire record an accurate account of the event.

Code of Conduct reports may be necessary from time to time to uphold the integrity of the game and to ensure inappropriate behaviour or conduct is dealt with in appropriate manner.

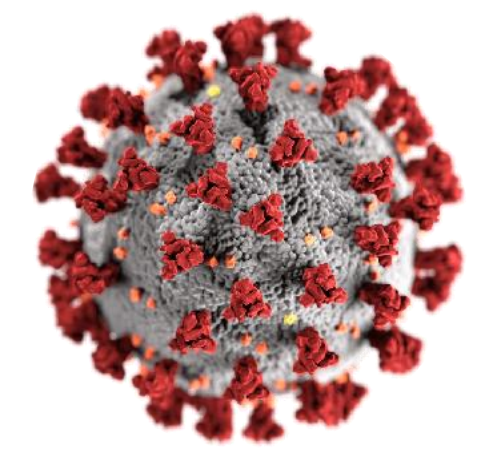
**Do not be put off from completing this report where the circumstances merit it**



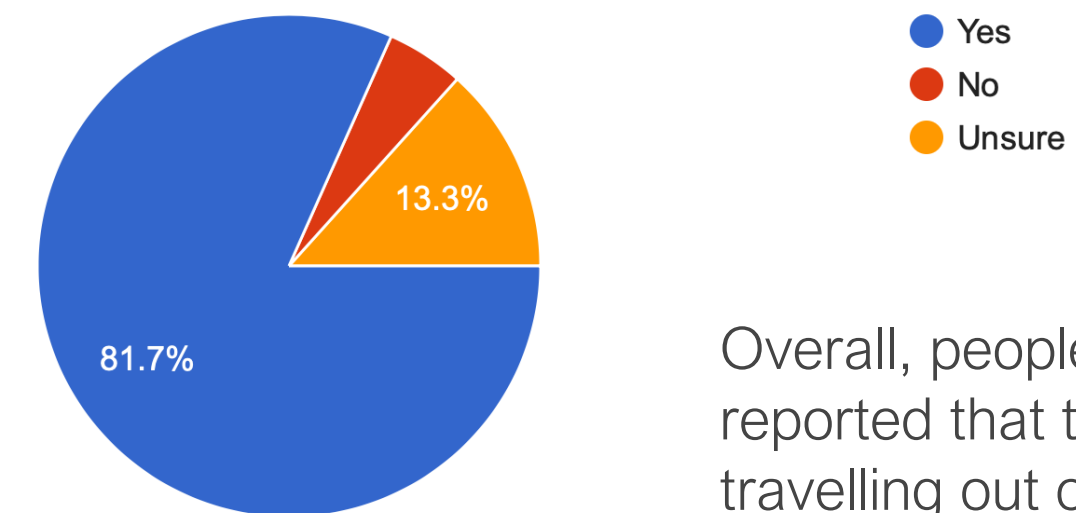
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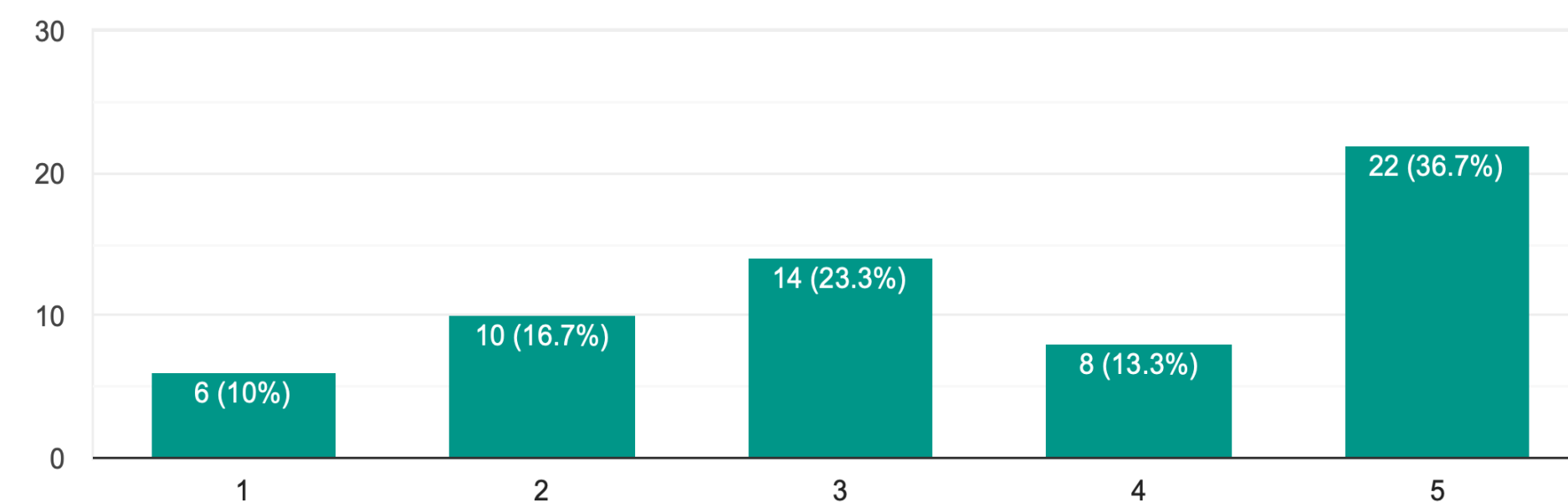
# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



62 umpires responded to the questionnaire. Of those who responded, 73.3% were male and 26.7% were female. 75% of people are planning to umpire during the season ahead.



Overall, people are willing to travel outside of province. Umpires reported that they were, in general, not concerned about travelling out of province (2.4 on a 5-point scale)

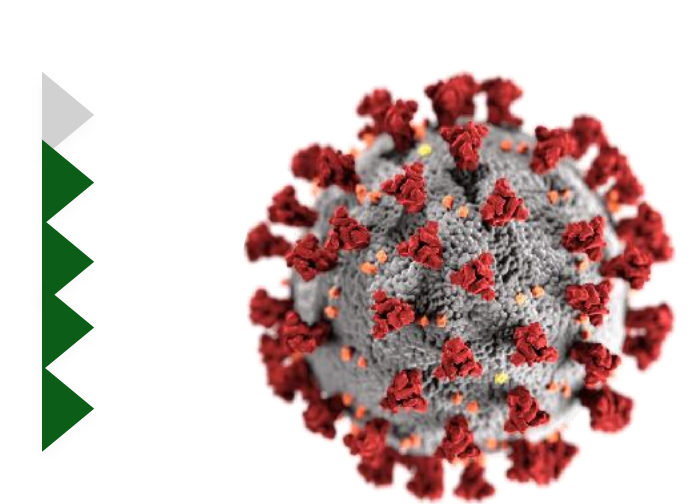


However, umpires were somewhat concerned about having to share cars with colleagues (3.5 on a 5-point scale)

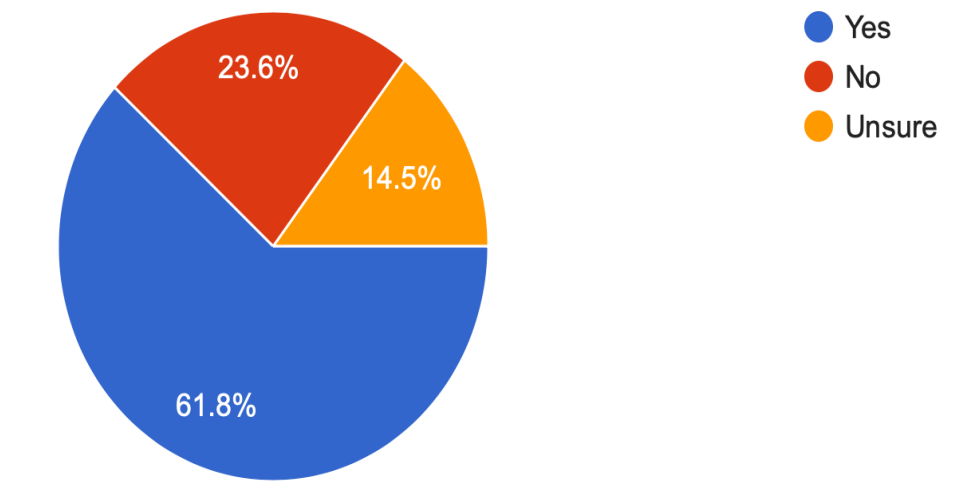
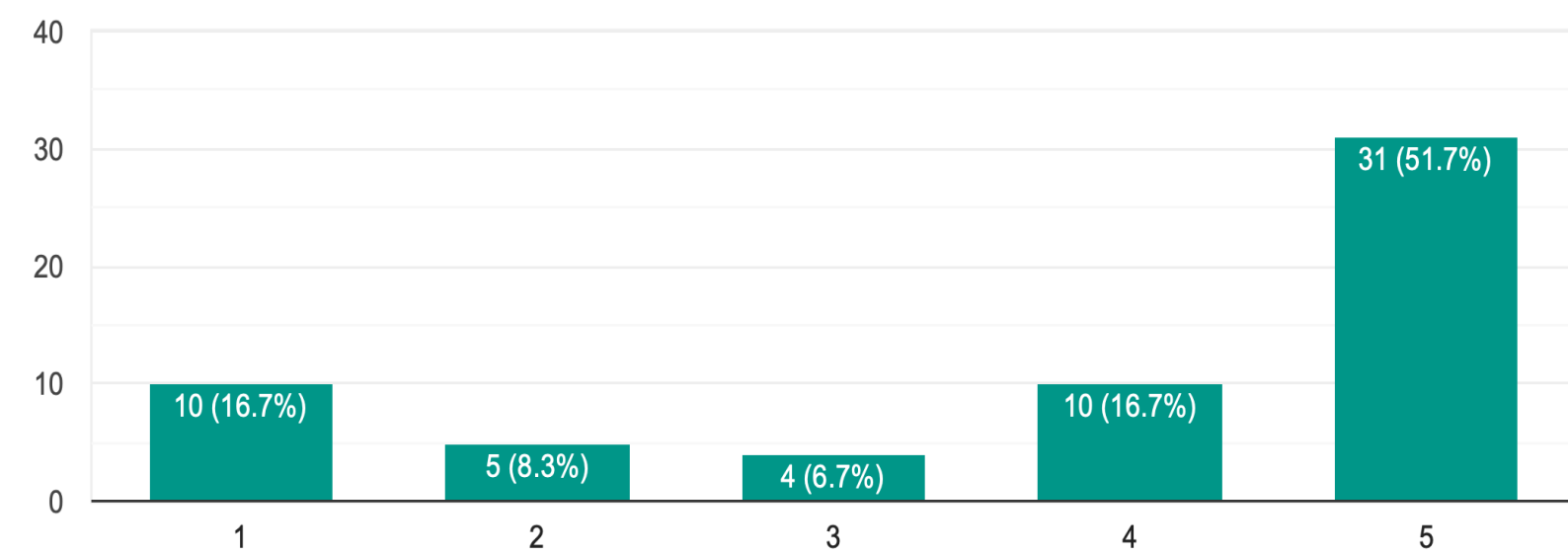
RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE



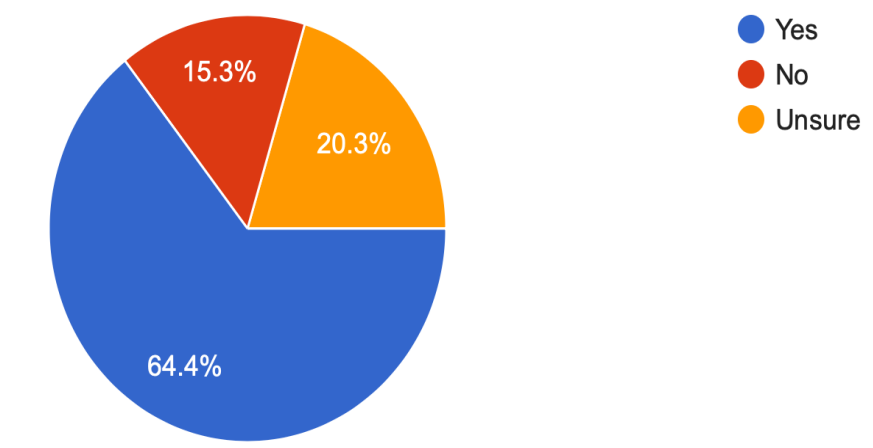
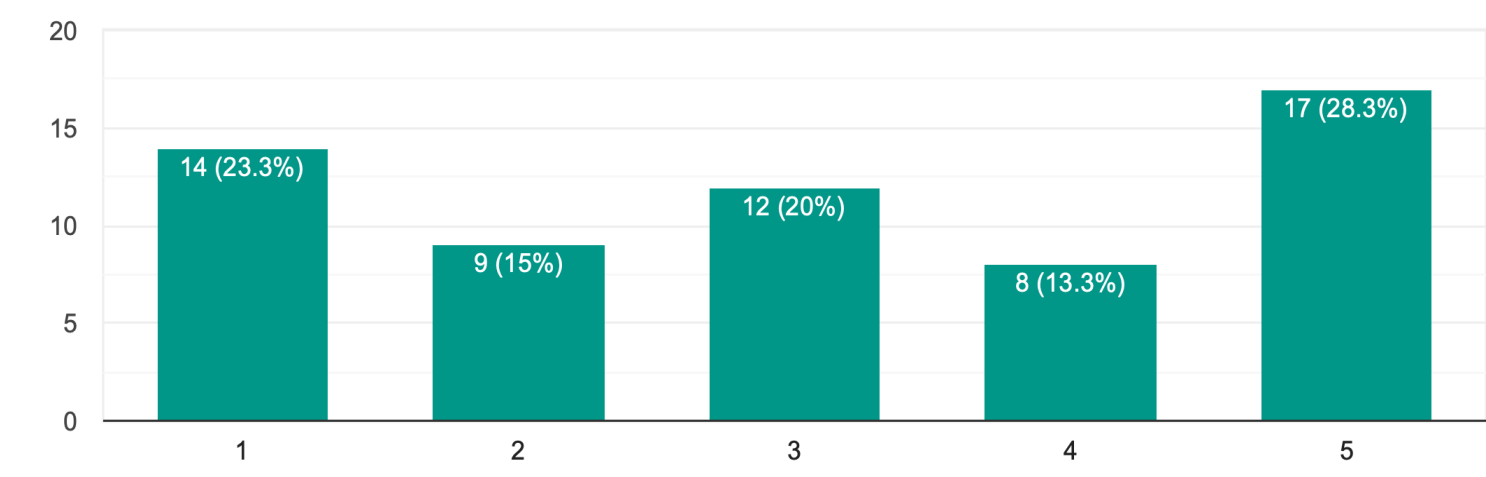
# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



Nonetheless, people are prepared to wear a mask if they need to travel (61.8%) and 3.8 on a 5-point Likert scale. However, we still wish to limit the need for this where possible.



Our budget is likely to be the same this year. To limit travel, we need to consider a number of options including a reduction in expenses. People were somewhat in agreement with this (3.1 on a 5-point scale) , but ultimately are prepared to do it if needed to fulfil games.

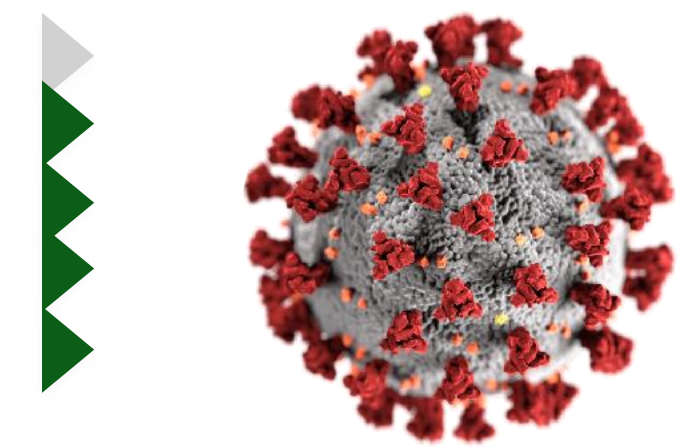


## RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE





# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



## Information regarding appointments

The IHUA is not receiving additional funding this year to cover expenses

To minimise close contacts, and in order to comply with current government guidelines, we may need to sometimes limit, out of province travel. However, we will not be able to stop it, and as umpires are happy to travel, we will continue to do this. However when out of province travel occurs, umpires **must not** travel together or share cars.

Umpires may receive less appointments this year because of the restrictions placed upon us. As such, please be aware that this year, less appointments may not relate to performance.

Umpires may also find themselves being appointed to the same teams more often than usual and more often than desired.

- We recognise that this may cause challenges and frustrations to both teams and umpires alike. Please liaise with the appointments co-ordinators if this becomes a major problem for you.

Because of these exceptional circumstances, a temporary reduction in expenses of 10c per km is proposed. This will be reviewed every six weeks.

Should you have any concerns relating to your availability and Covid-19, please contact the appointments co-ordinators, or a member of the IHUA committee with these concerns and note any availability specifics in the comments section online.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS ADVICE  
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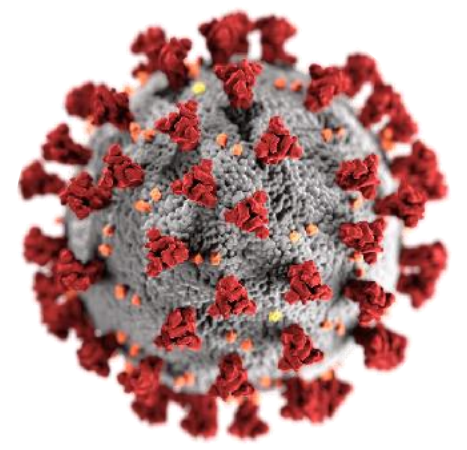


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# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



[https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content\\_page=COVID-19](https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content_page=COVID-19)

## Travel procedures

Ensure all your contact details are up to date on the system and keep up to date on any changing regulations

The home club's appointed CVO should contact appointed umpires no less than 24 hours prior to the start of the match, to outline the Covid-19 policies of the club and to ensure that umpires are symptom free.

For regional or local games that may not have officially appointed umpires, the home and away teams should include the name and contact details of their selected umpire within the team list. Any individual should not attend any matches if they display symptoms, have been in close contact with a confirmed case but have not been tested themselves, have recently been in an area that requires them to quarantine.

Umpires should not travel to matches together, even when this involves out of province travel. This may be updated with any further changes made to government guidelines .

Umpires travelling to matches should follow local transport guidelines. Umpires will not be allowed to share cars to travel to and from matches.

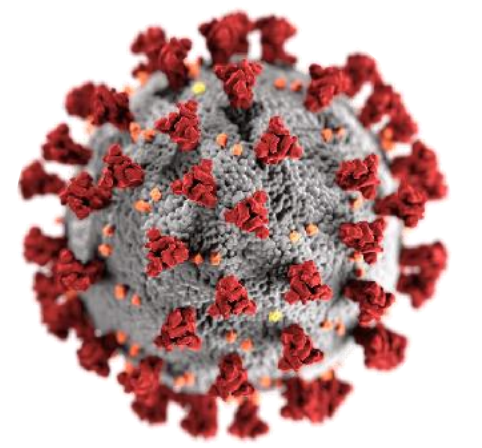
Do not share equipment, especially whistles. Wash your whistles regularly

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS ADVICE MAY CHANGE REGULARLY. EACH UMPIRE MUST KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST GUIDANCE.





# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



[https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content\\_page=COVID-19](https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content_page=COVID-19)

## At the match venue

**IF THERE IS NO CLUB CVO PRESENT THEN THE MATCH MUST NOT TAKE PLACE.**

Umpires should wait until all personnel from the previous match have left the field of play before entering.

Umpires must arrive on site in their match day clothes and practice social distancing upon arrival to the ground

Umpires are recommended to sanitise their hands prior to and at the end of the game.

A pre-match coin toss should be conducted using social distancing. One umpire should handle the coin.

Umpires must not move or touch any players equipment with their hands.

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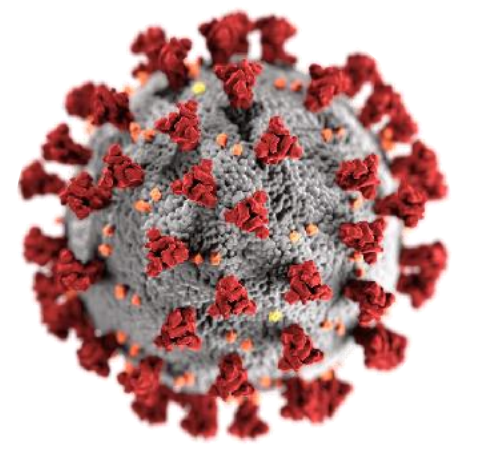


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# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



[https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content\\_page=COVID-19](https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content_page=COVID-19)

## At the match venue

**IF THERE IS NO CLUB CVO PRESENT THEN THE MATCH MUST NOT TAKE PLACE.**

Umpires, where possible, should avoid situations that require them to be in close proximity to groups of players at once (e.g. penalty corner defense set-ups, player clashes). We recognise, however, that this is not always avoidable, and that the management and safety of players remains the primary focus of umpires.

Umpires must not shake the hands of players, or each other, following the game, and should bring their own pen to sign the match sheet

Umpires will vacate the technical area as quickly as possible once the match concludes to allow the next match to enter.

Umpires, where possible, should shower at home. However, if needs be, they may use the facilities on site if they are available, but should ensure that this is done in a time efficient manner.

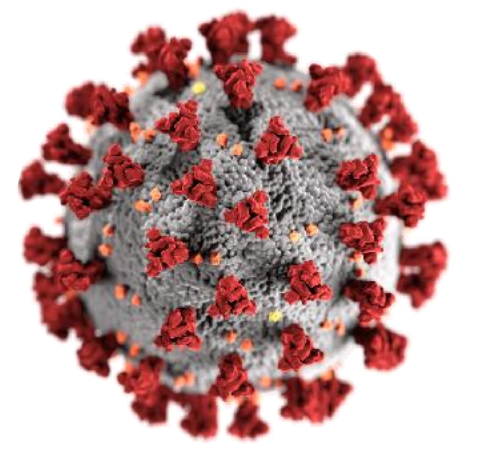
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# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



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## Match specific guidance and rules

**Please note: Umpires are responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc., in accordance with the Rules of Hockey, within the playing area (the pitch and outer playing area) & COVID-19 measures within the field of play.**

**The CVO is responsible for the conduct of players, coaches etc, in respect of COVID-19 social distancing and compliance with the guidance, outside of the pitch (this includes the outer playing area/benches).**

All match personnel (players, coaches, umpires etc.) should follow social distancing guidelines while waiting for the pitch to fully clear from any previous activity.

Teams must not complete line-ups, handshakes/high fives or huddles prior to the start of the match, or before the start of each quarter.

- This will be enforced through the offending team's captain receiving a verbal warning in the first instance, a green card personal penalty may be awarded to the captain for repeated offences.
- We are there to facilitate the game, use common sense for this

Players should avoid coming within 2m of an umpire, technical official or spectator. If players are asked to retreat from an umpire and fail to do so, they will be issued a personal penalty.

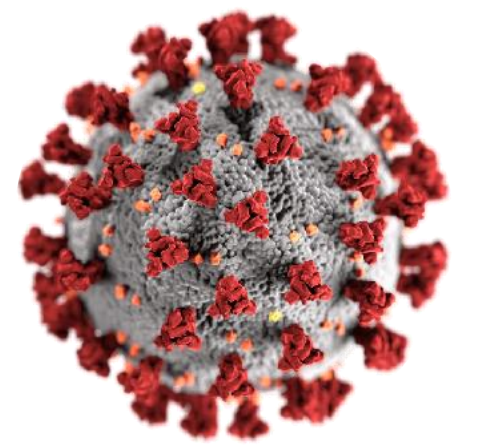
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## Match specific guidance and rules

Players are discouraged to celebrate goals as a group.

- This will be enforced through the offending team's captain receiving a verbal warning in the first instance, a green card personal penalty may be awarded to the captain for repeated offences.
- Use common sense for this.

During penalty corners, defenders must have their own, clearly marked defensive equipment. Equipment must not be shared between team-mates.

- Umpires are advised to use discretion when managing the 50 seconds in order to allow players to put on their own equipment while also avoiding unnecessary delay.

Players must not spit or clear their nose on the field of play. If this is observed by an umpire, they will issue a green card to the offending player. A repeated offence by any player will result in a further upgrading in the sanction.

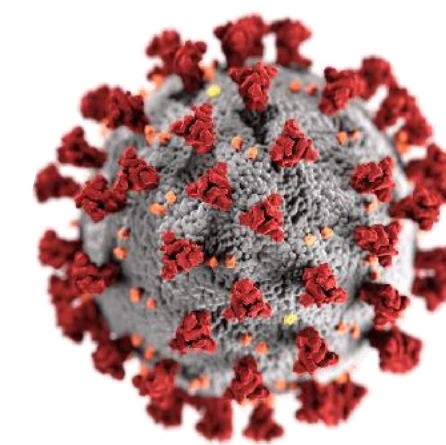
- It is acknowledged that umpires will not be able to see every occurrence of this. It is up to players to take personal responsibility and not engage in this behaviour

Players must not deliberately cough in the face of any other player, umpire, official, ball patrol or spectator. A red card will be issued for this offence, if witnessed by officials.

- It is acknowledged that normal coughs happen within play and cannot always be controlled. Normal coughs that occur at a distance or that are not deemed to be intentional acts of potential harm should not be sanctioned.

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# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



[https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content\\_page=COVID-19](https://www.hockey.ie/hockeyireland?content_page=COVID-19)

## Match specific guidance and rules

When an injury occurs that requires attention, an agreed member of the team of the injured player should attend to the play. Standard first aid protocols apply.

Both teams should supply managers and officials with their own equipment. E.g. captains and managers should have their own pen for signing match cards.

Ball patrol cannot be used at matches

Social distancing on benches will be managed by the home CVO. Player conduct on benches remains the remit of umpires.

No MTA's will be used this year. Umpires are therefore in control of timing cards & bench behaviour.

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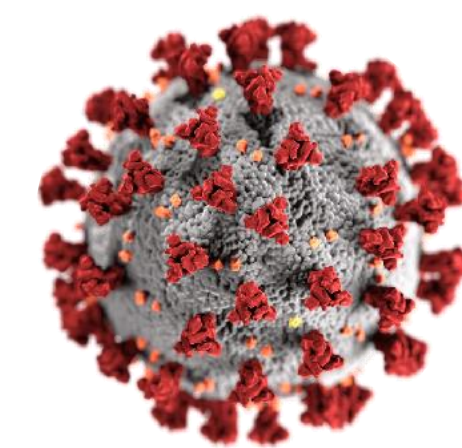


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# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



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## Match specific guidance and rules

If umpires experience indiscipline from the non playing staff on the bench, then the captain, who is responsible for the conduct of their team, may receive a personal penalty

If a match is postponed or abandoned for any reason, it will be up to the home club, not us, to alert Hockey Ireland about this.

Umpires will note the score, and cards on match sheets and complete any yellow and red card forms. Match sheets and report forms to be supplied by the home teams.

Umpires will handle the time for all cards, and time will begin once the game is restarted, irrespective of whether the person is sitting down or not. Players should be brought on with a whistle, and during a break in play, even if this means them serving a longer suspension time.

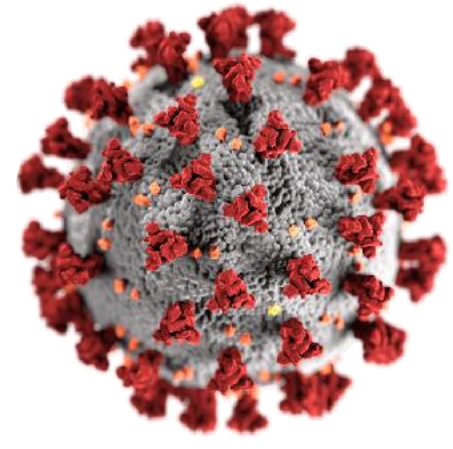
We do not need to complete any pre-match meetings with managers

Our role on match day is difficult enough without adding more. We have worked with HI to confirm these procedures. Lets concentrate on the basics

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS ADVICE MAY CHANGE REGULARLY. EACH UMPIRE MUST KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST GUIDANCE.







# COVID-19 PROCEDURES



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Engage

Explain

Encourage



# UMPIRING POINTS FOR THE SEASON



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Awareness

Recognition

Action

## What could happen next?

We must be aware of where play is likely to move to. Read the game.

Use time of the game, area of pitch, style of play as cues to be aware of.

## Where and why?

Linked to the previous point, consider why someone may foul in a certain area. What are the cues to watch out for?

Turnover balls!

## Keep it simple

Let's not go hunting or overthink things. By not being aware of the simple things we make life hard for ourselves.

By reading the game properly, the action we need to take becomes simple.



# UMPIRING POINTS FOR THE SEASON



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## Remember

COVID-19 HAS BEEN A  
STRESSFUL EXPERIENCE  
FOR EVERYONE

We don't know what players have been through. Their experiences, and our own, may emerge on the pitch through increased sensitivity, higher emotions, anger etc. Please be aware of this, especially at the start of the season while everyone finds their feet.

Now more than ever is a time to use our management skills to the best of our ability. Prevention is better than cure.



# ENJOY THE SEASON!

*Good luck. Remember to contact a member of the IHUA committee with any concerns you have during the season*

---

Your IHUA committee is:

Rob Argent

Jim Butler

Simon McAllister

Robert Johnston

Alison Keogh

Peter Murphy

Christine Reid

Russell Donaldson

Tom Goode

Kim Collins

If you have any questions on the content of this presentation, please join us next week (Saturday September 12th) at 10am for an online Q&A session

Questions may be emailed in advance to [alisonfkeogh@gmail.com](mailto:alisonfkeogh@gmail.com)

Login details for the meeting are as follows:  
<https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/98668158575?pwd=MjNESENZeUhwUF16R3E4aDRGeFdndz09>

Meeting ID: 986 6815 8575  
Passcode: 927355



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