

HUDDERSFIELD PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The Huddersfield Premier Cricket League & Umpires Association are looking out for new umpires for the 2026 season.

It is hoped that recruitment; training, development and progression for new umpires with the retention and satisfaction of the current umpires panel will assist to retain their number.

The Umpires Association currently have 38 panel umpires for the 2026 season, but the target is to increase this number with people from all walks of life including women.

That will also involve working with other organisations, such as the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation's (formerly the Yorkshire Cricket Board) match officials' association.

A Pre-season meeting has already been held with club umpires and club representatives to encourage each club to provide a panel umpire, with training and development being offered. Over more recent times club umpires have come forward to the panel to replace panel members who have retired.

For the 2025 season the Umpires Association had 39 members all of which had regular appointments, but our numbers did fall during the season for a variety of reasons which required clubs to provide an umpire on occasions for 1st XI fixtures in the Conference Section (3rd Division).

The Association have given an undertaking to try & ensure that all first XI matches have two panel umpires, but this is not always possible at the current time therefore it is important that we recruit new umpires

As far as training, development and progression is concerned, the Umpires Association have arranged for training courses at Almondbury Wesleyans CC but some courses do involve some travel initially. Details of the courses are on the League website & the YCB website with explanations with what is involved. All the courses will be held in the first three months of 2026.

There is a clear route to reaching the Premier Panel of umpires both within the Umpires Association and beyond through the ECB ACO so that ambitious umpires can reach the level that they wish to aspire to. Premier Panel umpires should be Grade M3.

This should mean that the right umpires are at the right games, with captains being briefed before the season on the fairness of their match marks for umpires in the Premier Division & Championship Division in the Huddersfield Premier Cricket League.

HOW TO BECOME AN UMPIRE

To become an umpire there are two pathways for you to follow: -

(1) UMPIRES PATHWAY

To progress up the ECB Umpires Pathway you must initially attend an ECB Umpire Course & then attend a 2-day Umpire Development Course. Details of what these courses involve can be found on the YCB website with a link to register for the course. After you have completed the ECB initial course you will be allocated a Grade 6 & you progress up the pathway by meeting a set criteria & applying for advancement via the County Development Officer. Further development courses are available in the form of Module B & Module A. The advancement besides attending the courses is by way of a on-field assessment. You would require to be an ECB ACO member & possess a DBS Certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service).

(2) UMPIRES NON-PATHWAY

For those who wish to umpire but do not wish to follow the pathway they can still umpire but they must attend the Umpire Development Course & Module B course. This would allow you to join the Umpires Panel, but you would not be able to advance to a high level of cricket & you would only umpire at a local level. You would not be given a Grade at this time, but you would require to be an ECB ACO member & possess a DBS Certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service). If you later decided that you wish to progress in the umpiring world you would have to attend the ECB Umpiring Course to obtain a grade & work your way up the pathway.

Whichever pathway you choose help, advice & mentoring would be provided throughout the journey by the HPCLUA.

For any further information contact David Haikings (Chairman Huddersfield Premier Cricket League Umpires Association) on 07835 634726 or Raymond Bissett (Secretary HPCLUA) on 07889 337167.