

Prior to the commencement of the 2018 Field State Championship season, Hockey NSW is excited to announce a new Umpire Accreditation structure to run in conjunction with the National HockeyEd system. It has been widely accepted that the gaps between HockeyEd levels are very large and as such, umpires from across NSW have become dejected and disenfranchised due to the extended timeframe and skill progression needed to reach a new HockeyEd level.

The Hockey NSW Umpire Grading System has been developed to introduce milestones for umpires between each of the HockeyEd levels. We believe this will allow umpires to receive continual recognition and be able to set realistic and manageable goals to keep developing their umpiring each and every year. The new umpire grading system does not replace or override any current or future HockeyEd accreditations and officials will still need to keep their HockeyEd accreditations up to date. However, the new grading system will act as a supplement for the HockeyEd system and will run in conjunction with HockeyEd. The table below outlines how each new grade level will align with the HockeyEd system. When certain grades are achieved by an umpire, their HockeyEd level will also automatically be upgraded to reflect their newly assessed competencies.

The Hockey NSW Umpire Grading System will be implemented in its infancy at Hockey NSW Field State Championships throughout 2018, with a view to upskill local association Umpire Coordinators to be able to deliver and assess umpires for various levels in local competition matches. The table below outlines the skills and competencies required for each grade level, as well as a practical understanding of the game level needed to be able to be assessed to achieve each grade.

This new grading structure will allow both existing and new officials to access new grades. The Hockey NSW Officiating Advisory Panel and Umpire Management teams at State Championships will endeavour to assess and align all current umpires with the new grading structure throughout 2018. Please note, umpires do not need to commence at the introductory levels of this system and can be placed at any level as long as competencies are met.

As part of the new accreditation system, Hockey NSW has created some guidelines and competencies for each of the grades as listed in the table below. Further to the table below, Hockey NSW has put the following restrictions on upgrades;

- An umpire can only receive one upgrade per season between the levels of Junior 1 and State A. However, an umpire can move from Community to Junior 1 in a single season if deemed competent.
- All upgrades will be reviewed by Hockey NSW and the Officiating Advisory Panel to make sure fairness and equity across Championships and associations.

If you have any questions or require more information regarding the new Hockey NSW Umpire Grading system, please feel free to contact myself via zeke.n@hockeynsw.com.au and I will endeavour to answer your queries.

Kind regards,

Zeke Newman

Umpires and Officials Manager

Hockey NSW

| Grade Title | Skills and Knowledge Competency Level | HNSW Issuing Level | Association Issuing Levels (For future use) | Competencies Shown by Umpire | Hockey Ed Level |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|-----------------------|
| HockeyEd Community | Online Hockey Ed and Junior Participation | Kookaburra 8's Carnivals/Regional Challenge | U9's/U11's | Basic Rules Knowledge Confident & effective whistling | Upgrade to Community |
| Junior 1 | U13 State Level or Equivalent | HNSW Junior State Championships | Top Level U15 association level | Sound Rules Knowledge Effective Positioning | Continue at Community |
| Junior 2 | U15 State Level or Equivalent | HNSW Junior State Championships | Top Level U18 association level | Application of Advantage and Flow | Continue at Community |
| State C | U18 State Level or Equivalent Open State C Division or Equivalent | HNSW Junior State Championships HNSW Senior Championships | Senior Games of a high standard at local association | Commitment to Umpiring Developing Game Management | Upgrade to Level 1 |
| State B | Open State B Division or Equivalent | HNSW Senior Championships | Local Premier League games by approved assessor only | Basic Player Management and Interactions Sound Game Management | Continue at Level 1 |
| State A | Open State A Division or Equivalent | HNSW Senior Championships | HNSW Only | Advanced Game Management Advanced Rule Knowledge | Continue at Level 1 |
| HockeyEd Level 2 | Open State A Division Semi Final or Relegation match | HNSW Senior Championships | HNSW Only | HockeyEd Competencies are met | Upgrade to Level 2 |