



Umpire Ratings for Outdoor Hockey

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PREFACE

About this ratings document

USA Field Hockey is committed to advancing field hockey at all levels within America. This requires USA Field Hockey to establish and maintain a program that helps the development of players, coaches, and umpires.

Described below are USA Field Hockey's umpire ratings and the procedures and requirements for attaining and maintaining those ratings.

A national structure for umpire development and ratings helps USA Field Hockey reach its goals.

PLAYER UMPIRE AND YOUNG PLAYER UMPIRE

Expectations of the Player Umpire and Young Player Umpire

The Player Umpire rating is for youngsters who are just beginning to officiate. The availability of this rating is not to suggest that dedicated and committed young umpires cannot achieve higher ratings. However, Player Umpires who are Under-13 years of age are called Young Player Umpires and they cannot achieve a higher rating.

Player Umpires should be able to officiate youth field hockey competitions. They should be able to recognize basic fouls and demonstrate confidence when blowing the whistle and giving arm signals. They should be able to properly award penalties (free hits, penalty corners, and penalty strokes) and restarts following a ball out-of-bounds. They should tend to keep the play to their left and maintain proper positioning.

The Player Umpire enjoys officiating **youth field hockey** competitions.

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Be a member in good standing with USA Field Hockey
- 2) Complete the Level appropriate training program taught by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, National Umpire Manager, or USA Field Hockey approved clinician
- 3) Enjoy officiating and learning a new skill

Evaluation Procedure

A certified USA Field Hockey Umpire Coach and the experienced umpires they appoint should shadow and then watch youngsters officiate, providing enthusiastic, positive encouragement

Awards

Player Umpires will receive a card indicating their level and date of rating's expiration

Maintaining a Player Umpire Rating

- 1) The Player Umpire must be a member in good standing of USA Field Hockey
- 2) The Player Umpire is willing to demonstrate that they can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions equivalent to **youth field hockey games** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)
- 3) Be re-evaluated every year

Notification

The Young Player Umpire and Player Umpire ratings are automatically awarded to all participants

STARTER UMPIRE

Expectations of the Starter Umpire

By applying a solid understanding of the basic rules, Starter Umpires should be able to manage sub-varsity level interscholastic competitions calmly and firmly. They should be able to recognize and penalize most fouls, including simple obstruction but especially dangerous play. They should show that they know when not to call advancing. They should be able to properly manage penalties (free hits, penalty corners, and penalty strokes) and restarts following a ball out-of-bounds. Whistle, arm signals, and penalty cards should be applied appropriately. They should keep the play to their left and position themselves in order to see play on the ball. Partnership skills and recognition of off-ball fouls, such as third-party obstruction, should be emerging.

The Starter Umpire can successfully officiate competitions that are at least equivalent to the level of play typically demonstrated by **competitive U16 club and/or sub-varsity interscholastic field hockey** teams.

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Be a member in good standing with USA Field Hockey
- 2) Complete USA Field Hockey Starter Umpire rating candidate application
 - a) Be recommended by a certified Umpire Coach or active Level II or higher rated umpire as candidate for a Starter Umpire rating
 - b) Pay application fee (the application fee for a Starter Umpire rating is included as part of USA Field Hockey umpire membership)
- 3) Complete the Level appropriate training program taught by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, National Umpire Manager, or USA Field Hockey approved clinician or can demonstrate equivalent combination of training and experience
- 4) Complete a written exam (a score of at least 70% on the current written examination must be achieved)
- 5) Be willing and able to perform standardized physical fitness exams designed to demonstrate that the candidate can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions equivalent to sub-varsity interscholastic field hockey (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)

Evaluation Procedure

- 1) An Umpire Coach, Regional Umpire Manager, National Umpire Manger, FIH Umpire Manger, or a minimum of two Level I umpires and/or USA Field Hockey certified Evaluators shall observe the candidate in not less than two competitive U16 club, sub-varsity interscholastic, or equivalent field hockey competitions at approved USA Field Hockey events where the level of play is determined by USA Field Hockey to be high enough to evaluate Level I candidates. Current USA Field Hockey sanctioned events include but are not limited to:
 - a) U-16 division or higher of Regional Futures Tournaments
 - b) U-16 division or higher of qualified State Games
 - c) Disney Field Hockey Showcase (U-16 division or higher)
 - d) USA Field Hockey approved club competitions with age appropriate athletes
 - e) Others as approved by USA Field Hockey
- 2) A certified USA Field Hockey Umpire Coach and/or other USA Field Hockey certified evaluator will make the final decision as to recommending the granting or renewing of the Starter Umpire rating and file the recommendation as required by USA Field Hockey
- 3) If the appointed evaluator(s) is not satisfied with the performance of the umpire, one of the following recommendations shall apply:
 - a) Not umpiring to a Level appropriate standards – further practice required
 - b) A second assessment to be made as insufficient evidence demonstrated in this evaluation

Awards

Starter Umpires will receive a card indicating their level and date of rating's expiration

Maintaining a Starter Umpire Rating

- 1) The Starter Umpire must be a member in good standing of USA Field Hockey
- 2) The Starter Umpire is willing and able to demonstrate that they can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions that are at least equivalent to **competitive U16 club or sub-varsity interscholastic field hockey** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)
- 3) Receive a score of at least a 70% on the current written examination
- 4) Be re-evaluated every year

Notification

When a candidate's Starter Umpire rating is approved, declined, or withdrawn by USA Field Hockey, the candidate's Regional Umpire Manager will contact the candidate regarding the outcome of the candidate's rating attempt or contact the umpire regarding the withdrawal of the umpire's rating

LEVEL I UMPIRE

Expectations of the Level I Umpire

Level I umpires, in addition to having all the skills outlined for Starter Umpires, must be able to put the advantage rule into effect in obvious situations. They must demonstrate regular use of partnership skills. They should establish a collaborative relationship with the team captains and work with the captain in managing the game. Primary signals, which indicate direction and/or type of restart, and secondary arm signals, which indicate the infraction that occurred, should be correct when used. Positioning should be both precise and flexible enough to let them see most fouls in the circle. They should be able recognize most types of obstruction and the majority of other fouls. They should have good whistle effectiveness and be secure in managing varsity level interscholastic games. Unsafe play and misconduct must always be appropriately penalized. They should assist in the recruitment and development of new umpires.

The Level I Umpire can successfully officiate competitions that are at least equivalent to the level of play typically demonstrated by **competitive U19 club and/or varsity interscholastic field hockey** teams. Where appropriate, a Level I Umpire could perform successfully at higher levels.

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Be an umpire member in good standing with USA Field Hockey
- 2) Complete USA Field Hockey Level I rating candidate application
- 3) Be recommended by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, Umpire Manager or higher Umpire Manager, or active Level II or higher rated umpire as candidate for a Level I rating or
- 4) Show support of Level I candidacy through recent performance evaluations from clinics, camps, tournaments or other approved development opportunities where performance evaluations are done by USA Field Hockey and
- 5) Pay application fee (the application fee for a Level I umpire is included as part of USA Field Hockey umpire membership)
- 6) Complete the Level appropriate training program taught by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, National Umpire Manager, or USA Field Hockey approved clinician or can demonstrate equivalent combination of training and experience
- 7) Complete a written exam (a score of at least 80% on the current written examination must be achieved)
- 8) Be willing and able to perform standardized physical fitness exams designed to demonstrate that the candidate can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions that are at least equivalent to the level of play typically demonstrated by **competitive U19 club and/or varsity interscholastic field hockey** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)

Evaluation Procedure

- 1) An Umpire Coach, Regional Umpire Manager, National Umpire Manger, FIH Umpire Manger, or a minimum of two Level II umpires and/or USA Field Hockey certified Evaluators shall observe the candidate in not less than two varsity interscholastic field hockey competitions or the equivalent at approved USA Field Hockey sanctioned events where the level of play is determined by USA Field Hockey to be high enough to evaluate Level I candidates. Current USA Field Hockey sanctioned events include, but are not limited to:
 - a) National Hockey Festival (U-16 division or higher)
 - b) U-19 division of Regional Futures Tournaments
 - c) U-16 divisions or higher of USA Field Hockey approved State Games
 - d) Disney Field Hockey Showcase (U-16 division or higher)
 - e) USA Field Hockey approved club competitions with age appropriate athletes (including 7v7, cross-field competitions)
 - f) Others as approved by USA Field Hockey
- 2) A certified USA Field Hockey Umpire Coach and/or other USA Field Hockey certified evaluator will make the final decision as to recommending the granting or renewing of the Level I rating and file the recommendation as required by USA Field Hockey
- 3) If the appointed evaluator(s) is not satisfied with the performance of the umpire, one of the following recommendations shall apply:
 - a) Not umpiring to a Level appropriate standards – further practice required
 - b) A second assessment to be made as insufficient evidence demonstrated in this evaluation

Awards

Level I Umpires will receive a card indicating their level and date of rating's expiration

Maintaining a Level I Rating

- 1) The Level I Umpire must be a member in good standing of USA Field Hockey
- 2) An umpire with this rating must be able to achieve a score of at least 80% on the current annual written examination
- 3) An umpire with this rating must be willing and able to perform standardized physical fitness exams designed to demonstrate that the candidate can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions that are at least equivalent to **competitive U19 club and/or varsity interscholastic field hockey** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)
- 4) After holding the rating for a 2-year period, the Level I umpire shall be re-evaluated. When a Level I umpire is re-evaluated and rated again as a Level I, their rating shall be for either a two- or four-year term

Notification

When a candidate's Level I rating is approved, declined, or withdrawn by USA Field Hockey, the candidate's Regional Umpire Manager will contact the candidate regarding the outcome of the candidate's rating attempt or contact the umpire regarding the withdrawal of the umpire's rating

LEVEL II UMPIRE

Expectations of the Level II Umpire

Level II umpires demonstrate in their officiating that they have a sophisticated understanding of the game, the rules, and current interpretations. They allow for competitive play because of the consistency of their decisions and ability to apply advantage. The games they officiate tend to run smoothly, minimizing unnecessary interruptions to the flow established by the competitors – rewarding the highly skilled players and increasing the enjoyment of the game for players and the fans. They should be able to judge all forms of obstruction, apply the advantage rule, and should ably manage circle play. The umpire should be in a credible position throughout the game to make decisions and assist his/her partner as needed. They should demonstrate excellent anticipation and partnership skills throughout every contest. They should have the ability to adapt to changing game situations and remain calm and demonstrate firmness when appropriate. Whistle timing should be excellent and primary signals, which indicate direction and/or type of restart, should be sharp and always presented properly. The Level II umpire knows to only use secondary signals, which indicate the infraction that occurred, when warranted by the situation. The ability to hold the whistle and interrupt the game only when necessary increases the enjoyment of the players and rewards the highly skilled players. They should be proactive in their assistance to USA Field Hockey and local umpire associations with umpire recruitment and development activities.

The Level II Umpire can successfully officiate competitions that are at least equivalent to the level of play typically demonstrated by **Senior Division club and/or varsity intercollegiate field hockey** teams.

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Be an umpire member in good standing with USA Field Hockey
- 2) Complete USA Field Hockey Level II rating candidate application
- 3) Be recommended by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, Umpire Manager or higher Umpire Manager, or active Level III or higher rated umpire as candidate for a Level II rating or
- 4) Show support of Level II candidacy through recent performance evaluations from clinics, camps, tournaments or other approved development opportunities where performance evaluations are done by USA Field Hockey and
- 5) Pay application fee (the application fee for a Level II umpire is \$25.00)
- 6) Complete the Level appropriate training program taught by a USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coach, National Umpire Manager, or USA Field Hockey approved clinician or can demonstrate equivalent combination of training and experience
- 7) Complete a written exam (a score of at least 90% on the current written examination must be achieved)

- 8) Be willing and able to perform standardized physical fitness exams designed to demonstrate that the candidate can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions that are at least equivalent to **Senior Division club and/or varsity intercollegiate field hockey** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)

Evaluation Procedure

- 1) A National Umpire Manger, FIH Umpire Manger, or a minimum of three USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coaches and/or USA Field Hockey certified Evaluators shall observe the candidate in not less than two full competitions at an open level club match, intercollegiate match, and/or an approved USA Field Hockey sanctioned event where the level of play is determined by USA Field Hockey to be high enough to evaluate Level II candidates. Current USA Field Hockey sanctioned events include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Senior Division club and/or U19-level competitions as approved
 - b) USA Field Hockey club tournaments
 - c) Approved competitions (including 7v7 cross-field and full-field college play)
 - d) Others as approved by USA Field Hockey
- 2) The three USA Field Hockey certified Umpire Coaches and/or USA Field Hockey certified Evaluators, a National Umpire Manger, or an FIH Umpire Manager will make the final decision as to recommending the granting or renewing of Level II ratings and file the recommendation as required by USA Field Hockey
- 3) If the appointed evaluator(s) is not satisfied with the performance of the umpire, one of the following recommendations shall apply:
 - a) Not umpiring to a Level appropriate standards – further practice required
 - b) A second assessment to be made as insufficient evidence demonstrated in this evaluation

Awards

Level II Umpires will receive a card indicating their level and date of rating's expiration

Maintaining a Level II Rating

- 1) The Level II umpire must be a member in good standing of USA Field Hockey
- 2) An umpire with this rating must be able to achieve a score of at least 90% on the current annual written examination
- 3) An umpire with this rating must be willing and able to demonstrate that they can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating competitions that are at least equivalent to **Senior Division club and/or varsity intercollegiate field hockey** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)
- 4) An umpire with this rating shall provide service at least once during a two-year rating term and twice during a four-year rating term (providing evidence of service within their region is the umpire's responsibility and will be reviewed during the renewal process; if a region is non-viable and/or without a Regional Umpire Manager, the umpire should seek assistance in a viable region or direction from USA Field Hockey through the Umpiring Advisory Panel)

- 5) After holding this rating for a two-year initial period, Level II umpires wishing to maintain their Level II rating must be re-evaluated.
- 6) The renewal application must be submitted by March 1 of the final year of the term for the umpire's Level II rating (renewal rating process is same as that for Level II candidates)
- 7) When a Level II umpire is re-evaluated and rated again as a Level II, their rating shall be for either a two- or four-year term
- 8) USA Field Hockey reserves the right to lower and/or withdraw a rating, especially for gross misapplication of the rules that demonstrate a heretofore unrecognized weakness in the mastery of the current rules and interpretations for an umpire officiating at this level

Notification

When a candidate's Level II rating is approved, declined, or withdrawn by USA Field Hockey, the candidate's Regional Umpire Manager will contact the candidate regarding the outcome of the candidate's rating attempt or contact the umpire regarding the withdrawal of the umpire's rating

Level II Emeritus Status

The Level II Emeritus Status may be conferred by the Regional Umpire Manager to a Level II umpire who has renewed the Level II rating at least twice: who no longer desires to officiate Level II competitions; who no longer wishes to renew the Level II rating; or who is not granted the Level II renewal. The Level II Emeritus umpire may officiate at a lower level for which they are rated. The Level II Emeritus who maintains their USA Field Hockey certification as an Umpire Coach may continue to train and evaluate Level II candidates, Level II umpires, and lower level umpires. To remain active and maintain his/her USA Field Hockey certification as an Umpire Coach, the Level II Emeritus umpire must renew every 4 years at Level I.

LEVEL III UMPIRE

Expectations of the Level III Umpire

Level III umpires are capable of officiating the highest level matches in the country (on natural or artificial surfaces). They demonstrate a high level of fitness, sophisticated decision making, and refined game management skills. Level III umpires officiating at the top level can aim for possible nominations to international appointments (depending upon potential and requirements set by the FIH).

The Level III Umpire can successfully officiate **the highest level of domestic competitions inclusive of intercollegiate, club, and national team play**

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Be an umpire member in good standing with USA Field Hockey
- 2) Submit an application and resume by March 1
- 3) Pay application fee
 - a) \$75.00 for new candidates
 - b) \$50.00 for renewal candidates
- 4) Submit a list of matches for the previous two years

- 5) Submit projected officiating schedule for the next six months
- 6) Provide evidence of being a participant as an umpire in one or more of the following: development camp, international tour, Hockey Festival, or any other major tournament
- 7) Provide evidence of recent service to field hockey umpire organizations: committee work at the local, regional, or national level; clinician, officiating for national team practices, selection games, or exhibition games
- 8) Applications shall be reviewed for:
 - a) Performance evaluations within the last two years from clinics, camps, tournaments or other USA Field Hockey approved development opportunities where performance evaluations are done
 - b) Strength of schedule
 - c) Evidence of service at the local and regional levels
 - d) Score of at least 96% on the current written examination
 - e) Evidence of keeping current with the game (examples include, but are not limited to participation at officiating clinics, camps, and seminars)
 - f) Willingness and ability to perform standardized physical fitness exams designed to demonstrate that the candidate can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating **the highest level of domestic competitions inclusive of intercollegiate, club, and national team play** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)

Evaluation Procedures

There are two procedures that can be used to evaluate a Level III candidate.

- 1) Evaluating procedures with a USA Field Hockey certified National Umpire Manager
 - a) The Rating Administrator shall in coordination with the Tournament Director or in the case of a domestic High Performance event, the International Development Chair, assure the appointment of a USA Field Hockey certified National Umpire Manager who will act as the Tournament Umpire Manager and be responsible for assessing the umpires
 - b) USA Field Hockey certified National Umpire Manger or FIH Umpire Managers may assign a Level III rating based on an umpire's performance over the course of a minimum of three games officiated at during a multi-day event (appropriate scores on written exam and measurements of physical fitness, when requested, must be achieved before rating can be finalized)
 - c) Written evaluations and recommendations shall be prepared by the National Umpire Manager and presented to the Rating Administrator
- 2) Evaluating procedures with three USA Field Hockey certified Level III Evaluators
 - a) The Rating Administrator shall appoint USA Field Hockey certified Level III Evaluators for each of the major or designated tournaments
 - b) Evaluators must be USA Field Hockey certified Evaluators, FIH International umpires or visiting FIH ranked officials

- c) Written evaluations and recommendations shall be prepared by the evaluators and presented to the Rating Administrator immediately following the tournament
- d) The three USA Field Hockey certified Level III Evaluators will make the final decision as to recommending the granting or renewing of Level III ratings and file the necessary forms to the Rating Administrator along with the recommendation
- e) If the appointed assessor, or in the event a Certified Evaluator, is not satisfied with recommending a Level III rating one of the following recommendations shall apply:
 - i) Not umpiring to a Level appropriate standards – further practice required
 - ii) A second assessment to be made as insufficient evidence demonstrated in this evaluation
- f) Unsuccessful candidates can apply for re-evaluation after one year with the exception of candidates who are recommended for re-evaluation by the International Development Committee or by their Assessor who feels there was insufficient evidence demonstrated in the game to make an accreditation judgment.

Acceptable venues at which a Level III rating can be earned or renewed are dependent upon whether the candidate is working to obtain their Level III rating for the first time or is renewing their Level III rating.

- 1) *Initial Level III* accreditation may be awarded at any USA Field Hockey domestic high level event. These events may be, but are not limited to:
 - a) High Performance domestic multi-day events
 - b) Hockey Festival
 - c) National Championships for both men and women or other pre-approved high level multi-day matches
- 2) *Renewal Level III* accreditation may be awarded at any of the above listed events or during:
 - a) National Futures Championship
 - b) USA / Canada Challenge Cup
 - c) The most competitive divisions of tournaments such as the California Cup, JFK Tournament, and Atlanta Cup if, in the then current year, they are approved as Level III rating renewal events by USA Field Hockey
 - d) Others as approved by USA Field Hockey
- 3) A certified National Umpire Manager or FIH Umpire Manager appointed to the event may serve as the evaluator or a minimum of three certified Level III Evaluators assigned to assess the candidate(s) if a certified National or FIH Umpire Manager is not available
- 4) During the tournament the candidate's performance on multiple games will be assessed

Awards

Level III Umpires will receive a card indicating their level and date of rating's expiration.

Maintaining a Level III Rating

After holding the Level III rating for a two-year initial period, Level III umpires wishing to maintain their Level III rating must be re-evaluated. If the Level III rating is maintained, the Level III rating only needs to be evaluated again every two or four years, depending upon the term given during the renewal rating process. The renewal application must be submitted by March 1 of the final year of the Level III rating term.

Active International (FIH Accredited) umpires will be exempted from this renewal procedure provided they have been appointed to and officiated in *an FIH event within two years* of the date that their Level III rating is scheduled to expire. In such cases, the expiration date of their Level III rating is extended by two or four years as approved by USA Field Hockey beyond the original termination date.

- 1) The Level III umpire must be a member in good standing of USA Field Hockey
- 2) An umpire with this rating must be able to achieve a score of at least 96% on the current annual written examination
- 3) An umpire with this rating must be willing and able to demonstrate that they can meet or exceed the physical demands of officiating **the highest level of domestic competitions inclusive of intercollegiate, club, and national team play** (measures of mobility, speed, and endurance to be determined)
- 4) An umpire with this rating shall provide service at least once during a two year rating term and twice during a four year term of rating (service includes serving as an umpire coach, serving as a clinician at the Regional Future's clinics and developmental camps, umpiring at the Hockey Festival, National Futures Championships, and other USA Field Hockey tournaments; service includes serving as certified Evaluator of Level III candidates and serving on committees within USA Field Hockey; Level III umpires have a responsibility to be active as an ambassador for USA Field Hockey and the umpire community; service as an umpire coach and evaluator is expected)
- 5) After holding the Level III rating for a two-year initial period, Level III umpires wishing to maintain their Level III rating must be re-evaluated
- 6) The renewal application must be submitted by March 1 of the final year of the term for the umpire's Level II rating (renewal rating process is same as that for Level III candidates)
- 7) When a Level III umpire is re-evaluated and rated again as a Level III, their rating shall be for either a two- or four-year term
- 8) USA Field Hockey reserves the right to lower and/or withdraw a rating, especially for gross misapplication of the rules that demonstrate a heretofore unrecognized weakness in the mastery of the current rules and interpretations for an umpire officiating at this level

Notification

When a candidate's Level III rating is approved, declined, or withdrawn by USA Field Hockey, the Rating Administrator will contact the candidate regarding the outcome of the candidate's rating attempt or contact the umpire regarding the withdrawal of the umpire's rating

Level III Emeritus Status

The Level III Emeritus Status is conferred on an individual by USA Field Hockey who has renewed the Level III rating at least twice but: no longer desires to be an active umpire at a highly competitive level; no longer wishes to renew the Level III rating but wants to continue to officiate; or who is not granted the Level III renewal. The

Level III Emeritus umpire may officiate at lower levels for which they have maintained a lower level rating. The Level III Emeritus who maintains his/her USA Field Hockey certification as an Umpire Coach may continue to train and evaluate Level II candidates, Level II umpires, and lower level umpires. To remain active as a USA Field Hockey Umpire Coach, the Level III Emeritus umpire must continue to meet USA Field Hockey's requirements for Umpire Coach certification.