

Definitions

For the sake of clarity the following terms which are used throughout this article are defined as follows:

Classification: A letter (A, B, C or D) supplied annually to ECB ACO from County ACO identifying the level of cricket that each official has officiated within the county on a regular basis within the last two seasons.

Grading: All umpires with a classification supplied by their County ACO will be graded by ECB ACO to indicate the level of ECB ACO appointments that they will be eligible for the forthcoming season. The grades available are:

D1	}	Development
D2		
D3		
D4		
.....		
C1	}	County
C2		
C3		

From the very early stages of the formation of the ECB Association of Cricket Umpires (ACO) there has been a commitment from your Board to establish a pathway for officials to be able to firstly be recognised for the skills that they have and secondly for officials to understand where they are and what are the next steps that need to be taken to develop to higher level matches. It is of course not the desire of all umpires to crave the heights of officiating beyond their local area but nevertheless it is important that there are choices for everyone and a knowledge of where we all are and its acceptance it is a comfortable place to be.

In my experience, the number of times the question was asked at training courses at all levels – what is the next stage? At the time there was no satisfactory answer but now we are close to being in a stronger position to do so.

We are only at the start of the process and there is much work to be done. The key people in this process are the local ACO who have been challenged with the task of finding out about their members. It is the information that we receive from them that we apply our criteria to. The counties are also invited to make formal recommendations about any of their members which allows the local view to have a positive contribution to the process.

ECB ACO has asked county ACO to supply classifications of their officials since 2006. You will see from the tables below that the success of this request has varied from county to county. The bottom line in terms of effecting the members is that if we do not receive any information on anyone then there we are not able to include them as part of the pathway by providing gradings. Therefore the success and effectiveness of the pathway lies in the hands of the membership and the officers who represent them.

Following the initial attempts to collect information of officials the criteria was amended for the classifications in 2009 as a result of feedback from around the country. The criteria used was as follows:

- A** This umpire meets criteria B and has officiated in multiple day cricket matches
- B** This umpire currently and successfully officiates ECB Premier Division matches (or designated equivalent) on a regular basis
- C** This umpire officiates in higher levels of feeder league cricket and the later stages of local competitions

D This umpire officiates in other grades of local cricket

All county ACO were invited to submit classifications on their members to ECB ACO by the end of October 2009. The criteria for classifications were based on the standard of cricket matches that the officials were regularly appointed to at county level over the last couple of years

To grade officials within the development area all available performance data and reports were used from that level of appointment and as a result of this process it is possible to identify the level of matches that these umpires are likely to be invited to be appointed to in 2010. Consideration was also given to those officials who were recommended by their County ACO which were submitted along with their classifications.

The grading of the county umpires was based directly on the classification submitted and the level of cricket that they officiate on a regular basis. This was done after the development umpires had been extracted from the list.

The following breakdown of the information collected and grade distribution by region as presented to the Board in January 2010 is as follows:

South	Numbers			Numbers of Umpires per Grade						
	2006-8	2009	Increase	D1	D2	D3	D4	C1	C2	C3
Berkshire	15	94	527%	2	0	2	0	5	17	67
Buckinghamshire	0	59		0	0	0	2	6	27	23
Cornwall	24	27	13%	0	0	0	0	24	3	0
Devon	18	66	267%	0	2	1	0	12	51	0
Dorset	37	51	38%	0	1	0	10	3	23	14
Isle of Wight	17	31	82%	0	0	0	0	1	16	14
Gloucestershire	59	80	36%	0	1	1	2	15	20	40
Hampshire	66	135	105%	1	0	0	2	13	38	79
Oxfordshire	54	47	-13%	0	0	1	0	9	7	30
Somerset	50	22	-56%	0	0	0	0	5	7	10
Wiltshire	6	67	1017%	1	0	0	0	6	17	43
	346	679	96%	4	4	5	16	99	226	320

LondonEast	Numbers			Numbers of Umpires per Grade						
	2006-8	2009	Increase	D1	D2	D3	D4	C1	C2	C3
Bedfordshire	28	52	86%	0	0	0	1	5	29	11
Cambridgeshire	55	36	-35%	0	0	0	2	4	23	6
Essex	103	85	-17%	1	1	1	2	21	36	21
Hertfordshire	39	154	295%	0	0	2	1	10	42	99
Kent	33	269	718%	0	1	5	3	15	57	189
Middlesex	22	45	105%	3	2	1	4	7	10	18
Norfolk	48	51	6%	1	0	1	1	4	16	28
Suffolk	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	56	156	179%	2	2	0	0	13	38	101
Sussex	82	207	152%	2	2	0	1	20	30	144
	466	1055	126%	9	8	10	15	99	281	617

North	Numbers			Numbers of Umpires per Grade						
	2006-8	2009	Increase	D1	D2	D3	D4	C1	C2	C3
Cheshire	91	105	15%	0	0	3	1	15	83	3
Cumbria	32	54	69%	0	0	0	1	4	29	20
Durham	98	125	28%	2	2	2	3	12	25	79
Lancashire	504	236	-53%	3	0	1	1	63	107	60
Yorkshire	24	512	2033%	0	1	1	2	203	218	83
Northumberland	54	56	4%	0	0	0	1	8	30	17
	803	1088	35%	5	3	7	9	305	492	262

Midlands	Numbers			Numbers of Umpires per Grade						
	2006-8	2009	Increase	D1	D2	D3	D4	C1	C2	C3
Derbyshire	49	59	20%	0	4	3	2	21	27	2
Herefordshire	25	18	-28%	0	0	0	0	2	8	7
Huntingdonshire	28	37	32%	1	0	0	0	3	9	24
Leicestershire	12	137	1042%	1	1	2	1	28	36	67
Lincolnshire	98	15	-85%	0	0	0	0	3	10	2
Northamptonshire	49	96	96%	1	2	1	2	5	16	65
Nottinghamshire	40	66	65%	0	3	1	3	9	41	5
Shropshire	85	76	-11%	0	0	2	2	1	17	53
Staffordshire	103	102	-1%	0	0	1	5	19	56	21
Warwickshire	46	165	259%	1	2	2	4	29	41	87
Worcestershire	71	101	42%	2	0	1	1	2	53	37
	606	872	44%	6	12	13	20	122	314	370

Wales	Numbers			Numbers of Umpires per Grade						
	2006-8	2009	Increase	D1	D2	D3	D4	C1	C2	C3
Wales	69	155	125%	1	1	1	0	41	70	41

Once the gradings for each official have been transferred to the membership database all county ACO contacts will be given the gradings of their members and asked to pass these on to the individuals. The level of matches that each grade entitles you to officiate are as follows:

Development Umpires

Grade	Match Type
D1	Womens ODIs
D2	Second Eleven Championship (Multiple Day) Second Eleven Trophy
D3	Second Eleven Friendly (Multiple Day) MCC Universities (Multiple Day) MCCA Championship

- D4** Elite Player Development
 - Second Eleven Friendly T20
 - MCCA Knock Out
 - Cockspur T20 Regional
 - Womens County Championship Div 1
 - Womens Senior Super 4s

County Umpires

Grade	Match Type
C1	British University Championship (Premier Division) U17 Championship National KO Regional Village KO Regional Womens Twenty20 Competitions Womens County Championship Div 2,3 Womens Junior Super 4s Womens Junior Super 2s
C2	U17 Cup U15 Regional Matches Disability Cricket Womens County Championship Div 4,5 Womens Premier League
C3	Age Group Cricket Womens Regional Leagues

Umpires in 2010 will be eligible for all matches listed at their grading or below in the table. This is seen as very much 'work in progress' and we should be open to amending these criteria as and when it is deemed appropriate to do so.

Associated with each grading is some criteria that will have to be fulfilled for umpires to be able to maintain their current grading. The first draft of this criteria is as follows:

Development Umpires

- D1** Able to deputise for first class umpires in SE cricket
 - Appointed to a minimum of 5 days SE cricket per annum
 - Leading a Level 3 education session a minimum of 1 per 2 years
 - Suitable level of performance
 - High quality of personal administration
 - Level 3 qualified
- D2** Suitable level of performance
 - High quality of personal administration
 - Attendance at Level 3 session a minimum of 1 per 2 years
- D3** Suitable level of performance
 - High quality of personal administration
 - Attendance at L3 session a minimum of 1 per 2 years
- D4** Suitable level of performance
 - Recommendation from county ACO

High quality of personal administration
Currently officiating Premier Division regularly (8 matches as a guide)
Attendance at Level 3 session a minimum of 1 per 2 years

County Umpires

C1 Level 2 qualified
Currently officiating Premier Division regularly (8 matches as a guide)
High quality of personal administration

C2 Currently officiates higher levels of feeder league cricket
High quality of personal administration
L1 qualified

C3 Currently umpiring cricket matches
High quality of personal administration

Final details of the structure will be posted on the ECB ACO website as the above criteria is fully discussed and confirmed.