**Shropshire Association of Cricket Officials (SACO)**

**Welcome**

Finished playing the game? Don't want to play but would like to be involved? Then the officiating section of the website is for you.

The Shropshire Association of Cricket Officials (SACO) trains and educates umpires and scorers of all ages and appoints umpires and scorers to league, college and Cricket Shropshire matches.

**Structure**

Our national body, ECBACO, has over 8000 members and is organised into seven regions, plus ICC Europe; with Shropshire ACO being one of five counties in the West Midlands Region. The National ECBACO Management Committee consists of Head of ECBACO, Deputy Chair, Regional Chairmen, two ECB officers, MCC Laws of Cricket Adviser and National Scorers Officer. ECBACO regional representatives have direct access to the Heads of ECB's regional hubs.

**Membership**

There are over one hundred ECBACO Shropshire ACO Umpires and Scorers. Each ECBACO member is graded according to their level of cricket umpiring/scoring and their ability and desire to progress. We are keen to recruit more young and female officials.

**Aims and Objectives**

• To promote and advance the status, role, authority and influence of cricket officials individually and collectively throughout the County of Shropshire and the Borough of Telford and Wrekin.

• To recruit, retain and develop the standard of cricket umpiring and scoring at all levels throughout the game, by education, assessment, mentoring and development programmes.

• To develop and maintain good relations with all bodies associated with cricket, for the improvement of the game in accordance with ECB Code of Conduct and within the Spirit of the Game and Laws of Cricket.  
• To take such action and make such recommendations to appropriate bodies as may be considered desirable in the best interests of cricket in general and for the benefit of umpires and scorers in particular.

**Progression**

There is an established pathway for all ECBACO members to achieve the highest possible level of umpiring and scoring. Electronic scoring is required in the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League and the Shropshire County Cricket League Premier Division.

MCC e-learning enables laws to be learnt online. A basic or intermediate certificate should be obtained prior to the Stage 1 Umpires Course.

Progression can be achieved by completing the various stages of the umpiring and scoring programme. Course information is shown later under ‘Education/Course

**Meetings**

SACO meets twice yearly at the start (AGM) and end of each season. In addition, informal meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month during the season for umpires to exchange match experiences.

**Umpiring Opportunities**

SACO operates an Umpires Panel for the Shropshire County Cricket League (SCCL) Premier Division, a feeder league to the ECB Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League (BDPCL) and for ten SCCL Division One clubs. In addition, seven Shropshire ACO umpires stand in the BDPCL.  
Umpires are also provided for ECB competitions, including Disability cricket and Cricket Shropshire matches and Festivals.  
Please contact Match Appointments Officer Colin Wetherley-Mein [c.wetherley.mein@btinternet.com](mailto:c.wetherley.mein@btinternet.com) should you wish to umpire Cricket Shropshire matches.

**Scoring Opportunities**

In addition to scoring club matches, there are opportunities to score at County Academy matches, Cricket Shropshire matches and festivals. Please contact our Scorers’ Officer Clair Eccleston [shropshirecso@gmail.com](mailto:shropshirecso@gmail.com)

## Education/Courses

**Qualification Process**

**This is the process to follow to become a qualified umpire and or scorer.**

**Umpires:**

Learn the **Laws of Cricket** online via the MCC website by <https://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/elearning> and obtain the Cerfiticate of Completion.

* Join the **Stage One Course – Club Umpire** – is held on Wednesday nights from 7.30-9.30pm during the Autumn at Allscott Heath Sports & Social Club.
* Then join the **Stage Two – League Umpire** course on Wednesday nights from 7.30-9.30pm during the Spring at Allscott Heath Sports & Social Club.
* **To register for the courses,**[**CLICK HERE**](https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/officials/find-a-course)**and follow the links to 'book a course' and find the Shropshire events. The cost is £30 per course, but you get a £20 discount if both are booked at the same time.**

**Scorers:**

* Access online **Basic Scoring Course** to provide the skills to start scoring.
* Join the **Club Scorer Course – How to record a match** to teach you how to score and obtain Level 1 after scoring a minimum of ten matches and getting colleague feedback for your scoring portfolio.
* **Level 2 – Planning and preparation** for experienced club scorers. Score another ten matches and attend a DLS Continuous Professional Development (CPD) module. Professional discussion with a Scorer Development Officer referring to your portfolio.
* **Level 3 – Advanced Scorer –** for those scorers who successfully completed Level 2, attended the Linear Scoring CPD module and aspire to score at the highest levels including multi day cricket. Further Professional Discussion with a Scorer Development Officer including review of portfolio.

**Course Content**

**Umpires**

**Introductory Course** - 4 hours duration (2 nights) to help prospective umpires to obtain a basic understanding of the Laws. No prior knowledge of the Laws of Cricket is required. A certificate of attendance is awarded on completion.

**ECB ACO Stage 1 - 12 hours** duration to give an over view of the basic laws of the game and how to apply them and introduce the principles of field craft and match management. It assumes participants have obtained a certificate from the MCC e-learning laws website confirming their knowledge of the Laws of Cricket.

**ECB ACO Stage 2 – 12** hours duration available by invitation to all umpires who have successfully completed Stage 1. It is mandatory for those umpires who wish to participate in Stage 3 courses.

**ECB ACO Stage U2A – Must register on Cvent. On field Accreditation on completion of Stage 2 and match notebook for ten matches. Boundary assessment of match performance. Certificate on completion of ACO version of MCC laws exam.**

**ECB ACO Stage 3 - Delivered regionally over 2 days** and is for those league umpires who aspire to officiating in ECB Premier Leagues. It is followed by compiling a portfolio of match planning, self-evaluation and independent boundary assessments during the next season. The portfolio is submitted for a closing professional discussion to attain the Stage 3 qualification.

**ECB ACO Stage U3A** – **Must register on Cvent**. On field accreditation on completion of Stage 3. Completion of match notebook on completion of each match. **Certificate on completion of ACO version of MCC intermediate laws exam. Boundary assessment of match performance.**

**ECB ACO Stage 4** – Delivered regionally for those umpires who seek to stand at the highest level of recreational cricket (national counties/2nd X1).

**Scorers**

**SACO delivers club scorer and electronic scoring courses locally as below.**

**ECBACO Club Scorer – How to record a cricket match for beginners and existing scorers who score regularly.**

**ECBACO Electronic Scoring – This module teaches existing scorers how to use Play-Cricket Scorer Pro software package.**

**The following courses are delivered regionally at Edgbaston.**

**ECBACO Level 1 – Achieved after scoring ten matches on completion of the Club Scorer course and obtaining colleague feedback for portfolio..**

**ECBACO Level 2 – Advanced Scoring Areas – Planning and Preparation. Score further ten matches, obtain DLS module. Professional Discussion with portfolio.**

**ECBACO Level 3 – Advanced Scorer – Multi Day Cricket, observation and professional discussion reviewing portfolio.**

**ECBACO Duckworth Lewis Stern Module – Explanation of DLS method of setting revised targets when play is suspended and the difference between various DLS formats.**

**ECBACO Linear Scoring Module – Completion of Linear Scoresheet with large practical element of scoring a pre-recorded match as a back up to scoring electronically.**

## Contacts

**Officers**

Chairman Tom Kane  
Vice chairman Tim Barber  
Secretary Malcolm Bird  
Treasurer Mike Sheehy  
Education Tom Kane  
Development Jim Strachan  
Scorers Clair Eccleston  
Membership Malcolm Bird  
Welfare Tim Barber

Disability Officials John McIntear

Women’s and Girls Lissa Davis

Appointments Mike Sheehy/Colin Wetherley-Mein

**For more information contact Tom via email**[**tomkane57@yahoo.co.uk**](mailto:tomkane57@yahoo.co.uk)

**or call 07810 524054 or 01952 763578.**