



**QuidditchUK**  
**Hooch Initiative**

**Club Handbook**  
**2017-18 Season**

## Overview

The Hooch Initiative is an expansion project from QuidditchUK which partners new/developing clubs with established clubs. The initiative aims to help new clubs find their feet, have a chance to play competitively and continue independently in following seasons.

The Hooch Initiative, described in this document, includes a list of objectives to help guide the setup of the new club. These include getting equipment, arranging games and general integration into the quidditch community.

A mentoring club will be allocated by geography to the new club, in order to minimise travel costs for both clubs. This club will then provide advice and support to the new club, helping them to gain traction and improve throughout the season.

By taking part in the Hooch initiative clubs may receive benefits from QUK. Mentoring clubs will be offered a partial refund on their regional team fee on completion of a Hooch Hub by 31/01/18. As well as the obvious benefits to training, recruitment, and development, new clubs may also enter a competition for the loan of a set of hoops for their initial season.

The initiative allows new and developing clubs to stay in the UK quidditch community, where in the past startups have faded out halfway through a season. With the addition of Development Cup in the 2016/17 season there are now more opportunities than ever for small clubs to succeed nationally and the initiative aims to give the necessary support needed for clubs to reach this milestone.

To register interest and join this season's Hooch Initiative as a **new** club please fill in this [form](#) by 30/09/17.

To register interest and join this season's Hooch Initiative as an **established** club please fill in this [form](#) by 30/09/17.

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## 1. QuidditchUK

QuidditchUK (QUK) is the national governing body for the sport of quidditch, with the mission of seeing quidditch change the lives of all who encounter it, and changing the wider sporting community within the United Kingdom. It is a purely volunteer organisation, which sets the minimum standards for the development of the sport, encourages clubs to host events and grow, as well as hosting its own national events.

The most notable of these events is the British Quidditch Cup (BQC), which takes place every year in March. The location is dependent on bids received by QUK the previous year. BQC gives 32 teams from around the country a chance to compete for the title of national champion. To attend BQC, teams are required to play at their regional championship (Southern or Northern Cup) to demonstrate their commitment to regular competitive play. These take place every year around late October/early November, with the venue moving within its region each year.

Due to the ever growing number of teams in the UK, it has become impossible to accommodate everyone at BQC while allowing teams adequate playtime during the tournament. The Development Cup was established in 2017 in order to give all UK teams a chance to compete nationally. Teams attended based on their performance at regionals or due to their inability to attend regionals, and by attending the smaller tournament, were given more opportunity to play and improve as a team. It is likely that new clubs taking part of the Hooch Initiative will compete in Development Cup in their first season but will grow and improve to compete at BQC in following seasons.

Another major tournaments of the quidditch season include the European Quidditch Cup (EQC). The tournament takes place within Europe and allows each country to showcase their best teams. In past years UK teams have qualified to attend based on their performance at regionals.

The European Games and IQA World Cup take place in alternate years and allow national teams, both within Europe and across the globe, to compete against each other. Team UK represents the 21 best players across the country, who are scouted from regional tournaments. The Team UK squad has regular training sessions, from which the national team of 21 players is chosen.

The Hooch Initiative is designed to enable new and developing clubs to be able to become sustainable over the course of a year by providing a solid foundation from which they can continue to thrive as a team.

## 2. Setting up a club

Setting up a club requires time and dedication, and can often seem like a futile task. However, should you succeed the outcome is worth it. There are many aspects to setting up a club and QUK are here to help and advise you through every step.

### i. Committee

The club committee are the people who will see to the overall organisation and running of the club. There is no “right” committee set up as each club operate differently seeing different roles as integral to their operation. University clubs are however generally required to have 3 fixed roles - President, Secretary and Treasurer. For a general overview of potential committee roles and what these would entail please see the Incoming Committee Guide on the QuidditchUK website.

### ii. Recruiting members

Recruiting members who are willing to put time and dedication into the sport is integral to the growth of your club. If affiliated with a university you may wish to set up a stall at your freshers fair or appeal to existing societies with an overlap of interests (e.g. Harry Potter Societies). It is recommended you set up a Facebook page for your club in order to have an internet presence and easily be able to contact and respond to potential club members. For community clubs an online presence is even more important in order to reach a wider audience.

In order to raise funds for your club you should consider charging a membership fee. The amount you charge should reflect the size and ability of the club but allow for the purchase of equipment to start your club.

As part of the Hooch initiative Tom Ffiske (QUK PR/Marketing Coordinator) will assist in the initial PR of your club within local media- contact details can be found in the appendix. Your club’s details will be passed on once your participation in the Hooch Initiative is confirmed by filling in this [form](#).

For more advice and to find people in your area who may be interested consider joining the following Facebook forums:

[UK Quidditch](#): This is independently moderated and not part of QUK but contains most members of the UK community.

[UK Quidditch New Team Captains Support](#): This has been set up by the Outreach division of QUK's Outreach and Development department to aid new captains in the setup of their clubs and share relevant QUK information. However, this should not be used as a sole source for QUK event information.

### iii. Basic equipment

In order to practice and play quidditch a range of equipment is needed. The exact specifications for these can be found in the first section of the rulebook (linked in section 3.v) along with pitch dimensions. Key equipment is listed below with links to examples.

#### **Hoops and brooms**

Six hoops are needed to set up a full pitch and at least 14 brooms are recommended. One specialist company exists in the UK, Two Hands Events (linked below). However, many clubs make their own hoops and brooms. Should you choose this option feel free to contact Becca Short or your Expansion Manager for advice.

Hoops and Brooms Suppliers:

[Two Hands](#)

[Petersons](#) (US Based)

DIY Brooms:

[B&Q](#) (Cut pipe into rulebook regulation size and cap or tape ends)

#### **Bludgers**

Deflated dodgeballs are used (size 8.5"), 3 are required for a full game. Baden are a popular brand in the UK providing a good grip in most conditions and proving to be hard wearing.

[Baden 8.5 Dodgeballs](#)

[P.G 8.5 Dodgeballs](#)

#### **Quaffles**

A slightly deflated volleyball (size 5/official size), 1 required for a full game. The Baden Matchpoint Volleyball is the most popular quaffle in the UK but there are also alternatives suggested below.

[Baden Matchpoint](#)  
[Vetra Soft Touch](#)

## **Snitch**

A tennis ball in a yellow football sock which is then tucked into the back of the snitch runner's shorts, 1 required for a full game. Snitches are easy to make on your own by simply tying a knot in a football sock with a tennis ball in it, while ensuring the snitch sock is at least 10 inches (25 cm) long. Specialist shorts with a velcro snitch sock may be purchased from Emerald Quidditch Equipment or Utility, but are not crucial.

[Emerald Quidditch Equipment](#)  
[Utility](#)

## **Headbands**

Sports headbands of white (chasers - 3 per team), black (beaters - 2 per team), green (keeper 1 per team) and yellow (seeker - 1 per team). These are used to differentiate players positions on pitch and can be purchased from most sports shops, or specialist reversible headbands purchased from Emerald Quidditch Equipment.

[Emerald Quidditch Equipment](#)  
[Generic Headbands on Amazon](#)

## **Other**

You may also wish to acquire other equipment such as cones (to mark out your pitch), bibs (to differentiate teams), ball pump, ball bag and first aid kit.

#### iv. Kit

It is generally advised that players wear comfortable, and weather appropriate, sports clothes to play quidditch. Football or rugby boots are highly recommended in order to prevent sliding while playing and to help withstand tackles, and may be mandatory at some tournaments. As quidditch is a full contact sport a mouthguard is recommended but not necessary.

In order to give a team more of an identity a club may order custom designed sports kits from a variety of manufacturers (some examples listed below with pros and cons). However, many new teams start off simply in T-shirts with a team colour and numbers written on the back of them until they are more established.

##### Geff:

Pros - Full kit (jersey and shorts) are reasonably priced.

Cons - Small fitting and difficult to get in touch with.

##### Akuma:

Pros - Fast delivery, good material, high quality customer service.

Cons - Expensive.

Xamax: email [amy.r@xamax.co.uk](mailto:amy.r@xamax.co.uk) or [annie@xamax.co.uk](mailto:annie@xamax.co.uk) (requesting personalised "sublimated rugby shirts")

Pros - Flexible with designs, warm kit.

Cons - Have often made mistakes with kit.

##### 6TK:

Pros - Quick to respond, good prices, good sizing.

Cons - New company so slow to deliver.

##### Zoti:

Pros - Reasonable prices, good customer service.

Cons - Thin material, long shipping time.

## v. Rules of quidditch

There are currently many variations of the rules of quidditch used throughout the world. The rules used by QUK are currently under discussion so please keep an eye out on the QUK website and Facebook page for details of the decision. However, generally, the full rulebook can be overly intense for new players, so you may wish to start with the basic version of the rules or alternatively the general principles of the game, which are explained in the below infographic from QUK. If you have any other questions about the rules don't hesitate to ask a QUK volunteer.

[QUK basic rules infographic](#)

## vi. Drills

As a new club it's often hard to know where to start training as quidditch is such a unique sport. Below is a link to suggested drills, explaining what they work on, compiled by QUK which also gives a suggested layout of a training session.

[Drill guide](#)

### 3. Hooch Initiative

#### i. Team Hooch

The current QUK Hooch advisor, Becca Short will be following the progress of clubs throughout their Hooch process, and is the first point of contact for any queries you may have. She will be happy to listen to any questions, comments and concerns you may have with the development of your club.

Secondary QUK contact points are the Expansion Coordinator of the clubs region – Northern England, Southern England, Wales or Scotland. The expansion coordinators are as follows:

Northern England – Aaron Jones

Southern England – Tom Ower

Scotland – Gavin Hughes

Wales – Fabian Brunt

They will answer any questions should Becca be unavailable and will help to pair new clubs with established ones.

The Hooch Initiative is run by the Outreach and Development Department (formerly Teams Department), whose Director is Rix Dishington and Assistant Director is Beth Thompson. Rix and Beth are longstanding members of the UK community and, should no one else be responding feel free to message either of them, to give their team a nudge to reply, and give guidance on more complex questions.

QuidditchUK as an organization is led by the Presidential Team, who represent the face of the organisation nationally and internationally. Melanie Piper, the current President, has been playing quidditch since the birth of the sport in the UK, and served as Teams Director for a year and a half before her promotion to President at the start of the 2016/17 season. The Vice President supports the president in their duties and should the president be unavailable will cover their role. Both members of the Presidential Team would be happy to take your questions and discuss any issues you have.

The emails of all the QUK volunteers noted above can be found in the appendix of this guide.

## ii. Hoops Competition

*New for 2017/18* this competition will give Hooch clubs a chance to win their own set of hoops. The winners of the competition will then be sent a full set of hoops for them to use for the year at which point they may buy the hoops at discount from QUK or, should they still be of a good useable quality, return them for the next years competition. Full details of the competition will be released in September 2017.

## iii. Hooch aims

The aims of the Hooch initiative are split into four categories - Setup, Equipment, Competitive and Development. Below is an explanation of each set of aims and a checklist for all aims can be found in the appendix of this guide. Not all of the aims need to be met in order to establish your club and a checklist if all aims can be found in the appendix of this guide.

## iv. Setup aims

These aims should guide you through the initial stages of starting your club.

- Make a committee
  - In order to give your club structure and organise events for the club.
- Write a constitution
  - A constitution can be used for a variety of things within your club. From club ethos to conflict resolution this will help your members know what your club is about, what is deemed acceptable behaviour in the club and its aims.
- Recruit 5/10/15 members
- Hold your first training session
- Design a logo
  - Give your club a memorable brand.
- Create a Facebook page
  - This will allow people to more easily find information on your club and help integrate your club into the UK community.
- Become a QUK official club
  - This allows your club to compete in QUK official tournaments. Club membership is currently £30, and individual membership £15.
- Take part in a Hooch Hub
  - Hooch hub will be hosted by your mentor club before 31/01/18. This will take place over one day and give your club the potential chance to play against another hooch club and take part in a training practice with

your mentor club. Throughout the day 3 games will be held, with drills in between so you can see your club improve over the day

- Club funding
  - It may be beneficial for your club to either open a club bank account (many banks offer “club accounts”) or Paypal in order to keep your club funds safe and make accessing them easier than if one person is using a personal account.

## v. Equipment aims

These aims should guide you through the initial stages of acquiring all equipment your club needs to train.

- Get hoops
- Get balls
- Get brooms
- Get headbands
- Order your first batch of kit

## vi. Competitive aims

These aims should guide you through the first stages of establishing your club competitively.

- Play a best of 3
- Win a game
- Win 3 games
- Attend a QUK tournament
- Win a tournament game
- Enter players into a merc tournament
  - Mercenary tournaments occur throughout the year at various locations throughout the UK. These are not QUK official tournaments but give your players the opportunity to play on teams with members of other clubs and are a great opportunity to learn new skills from different people and make friends in the community.

## vii. Development aims

These aims should help to better establish your club both in the UK (and potentially internationally) by gaining qualified referees and ensure your club members enjoy being part of the club.

- Have qualified referees in your club
  - Being a QUK referee gives you a better understanding of the rules of quidditch. It will also help your club to improve by knowing when rules are broken and helps individuals find a place in the UK community. QUK also offers reimbursements to qualified referees detailed in the referee qualification procedure linked below.
    - Due to the QUK 2017/18 rules having not been announced yet the referee procedure may change slightly. The link below should still give a good idea of the general procedure.
- Have a club social
  - This will help bring your members together outside of practices helping to create more of a team mentality.
- Start a fundraiser for the club
  - This can be anything you like from a bake sale to club specific merchandise. This will help establish a treasury for the club to help with buying equipment and getting to tournaments.

[Referee qualification procedure](#)

## 4. Appendix

### i. Volunteer contact details

Aaron Jones – Northern Expansion Manager: [aaron.jones@quidditchuk.org](mailto:aaron.jones@quidditchuk.org)

Becca Short – Hooch Advisor: [hooch@quidditchuk.org](mailto:hooch@quidditchuk.org)

Beth Thompson - Assistant Outreach Director % [rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org](mailto:rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org)

Fabian Brunt – Welsh Expansion Manager: [fabian.brunt@quidditchuk.org](mailto:fabian.brunt@quidditchuk.org)

Gavin Hughes - Scottish Expansion Manager: % [rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org](mailto:rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org)

Matt Bateman – QUK Vice President: [vicepresident@quidditchuk.org](mailto:vicepresident@quidditchuk.org)

Melanie Piper – QUK President: [president@quidditchuk.org](mailto:president@quidditchuk.org)

Rix Dishington – Outreach and Development Director:  
[rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org](mailto:rix.dishington@quidditchuk.org)

Tom Ffiske - PR/Marketing Coordinator: [thomas.fffiske@quidditchuk.org](mailto:thomas.fffiske@quidditchuk.org)

Tom Ower – Southern Expansion Manager: [tom.ower@quidditchuk.org](mailto:tom.ower@quidditchuk.org)

## ii. Aim checklist

<b>Setup aims</b>	
Make a committee	
Write a constitution	
Recruit 5 players	
Recruit 10 players	
Recruit 15 players	
Hold a training session	
Design a logo	
Create a Facebook page	
Become a QUK official club	
Take part in a Hooch Hub	
Club Funding	
<b>Equipment aims</b>	
Get hoops	
Get balls	
Get brooms	
Get headbands	
Order a batch of kit	
<b>Competitive aims</b>	
Play a best of 3	
Win a game	
Win 3 games	
Attend a QUK tournament	
Win a tournament game	
Enter 1 player in a mec tournament	

Enter 5 players in a merc tournament	
<b>Development aims</b>	
Have a qualified level 5 or 4 referee	
Have a level 3 or 2 referee	
Have a level 1 qualified referee	
Have a club social	
Start a fundraiser for the club	