THE FA REFEREE COURSE
Pre-Course Activity Pack
Not such a beautiful gone

John Mortimer, referee, Devon Amateur league
 Verbally abused for awarding a penalty

Respect
TheFA.com/respect
ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BENEFIT YOU IN ADVANCE OF THE COURSE.

Introduction 4 09 The Ball In and Out of Play 16
Foreword 5 10 Determining the Outcome of a Match 16
01 The Field of Play 6 11 Offside 17
02 The Ball 7 12 Fouls and Misconduct 18
03 The Players 8 13 Free Kicks 21
04 The Players’ Equipment 9 14 The Penalty Kick 23
05 The Referee 10 15 The Throw-in 24
06 The Other Match Officials 14 16 The Goal Kick 24
07 The Duration of the Match 14 17 The Corner Kick 25
08 The Start and Restart of Play 15 Frequently Asked Questions 26

Local branches of The Referees’ Association hold regular meetings at which training, development and on-going support of referees is a priority. All referees are strongly encouraged to be members of The Referees’ Association and further information will be available on your course either from your Tutor or from a visiting member of The Referees’ Association.

On behalf of The FA we would like to wish you every success as you embark on this exciting journey. Football is our National Sport and is loved by millions of adoring fans. Today you are taking your first steps into an exciting career. The next time you cross the white line on a field of play could be your first as a referee.

As the excitement builds, we hope you enjoy The FA Referee Course and realise your dreams, whatever they may be. You could be on your way to refereeing at Wembley or becoming a future World Cup Referee. Whatever your dreams and ambitions good luck, may the ball run smoothly for you.

THE FA referee course is delivered and assessed/awarded by FA Education
It is one of a number of qualifications awarded by FA Education as part of The Football Association’s education strategy. We hope you will find your course productive and enjoyable. Please consider other FA Education qualifications to support your progression within your work in football.
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your FA Referee Course.

The journey you are about to embark on will change your outlook on football forever and you will experience a great deal of important learning.

Over recent years we have made significant improvements to the tuition, content and experiences that people encounter during The FA Referee Course. Everyone referees on a ‘field of play’ so it is only right that a large part of the course takes place in a practical environment.

This course will position you very strongly to have the knowledge, skills and confidence to go out and referee your first football matches.

Please ensure that you put yourself in the strongest position possible by completing the Pre-Course Activity Pack. Take the time to read and complete this exercise as it is vital that this is completed before you attend the course. Refereeing will bring you many positive, enjoyable and rewarding experiences.

On behalf of The FA Referees’ Committee, I am very pleased to welcome you to the English refereeing family.

Best wishes.

David Elleray MBE
Chairman, The FA Referees’ Committee
To be a referee requires more than just an ability to be physically fit.

You need to have a good understanding on the 17 Laws of the Game, an ability to manage people, make decisions clearly and control players, coaches and those involved in the game.

The FA Referee Course will prepare you for the challenges of becoming a referee. Not only will you learn so much about the laws of football but you will also develop skills around player management, body language, recognising challenges and positioning and movement.

This Pre Course Activity Pack is designed to start you thinking and gain an understanding about being a referee. It is important that you complete this pack before starting the course as you will be asked to refer to it during the early stages of the course.

Enjoy the course, ask questions, be active and good luck.

Neale Barry
Head of Refereeing

This pack should work in conjunction with the Laws of the Game Book that you have received.

Please work through the questions and bring it with you to the course introduction.
Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.

The colour of artificial surfaces must be green.

1) Dimensions of the Field of Play are? (fill in the blanks)
   a) Touchline: Length (min) M (max) M
   b) Goal Line: Width (min) M (max) M

2) How many compulsory corner flags are required?

3) Complete the below dimensions that match the above diagram;
   A) M B) M C) yds D) yds E) M
02 / THE BALL

During play the ball bursts outside the goal area, you as the referee stop play and replace the ball.

How should you restart play?
A match is played by two teams, each with a maximum of eleven players; one must be the goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team has fewer than seven players.

1) In official competitions, what is the maximum number of substitutes that can be used?

2) Where on the field of play must all substitutions take place?

3) When can a goalkeeper be changed?
A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted.

What is wrong with the players’ equipment below?
Powers and Duties - The Referee...

• ...the Laws of the Game.

• ensures that any ball used meets the requirements of Law ...

• ensures that the ... meets the requirements of Law 4.

• acts as ... and keeps a record of the match.

• ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the ...

  The player may only return on receiving a signal from the ...

  who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped.

• ensures that no unauthorised persons ... the field of play.

• provides the appropriate authorities with a ...

  which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players and/or ...

  and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match.
What items of equipment would you need to take out with you on to the field of play?  
\textit{(fill in the blanks)}

1) 
2) 
3) 
4) 
5) 
6) 

Decisions

1) When and how to enforce the Laws of the Game in order to control the match

2) How to best cooperate with the other match officials (where applicable)

3) When to stop, suspend or terminate a match  
   (e.g. for infringements, injuries, weather, misconduct and outside interferences)

4) When to penalise infringements and which sanction to apply

5) When and how to apply advantage

6) How, where and when to restart the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
Applying Advantage

If a player is fouled but their team appears to have an advantage e.g. they break clear on goal or can develop play effectively (having possession of the ball does not always constitute an advantage) you can play advantage.

In this situation do not stop play but wait to see if the advantage develops – if it does then you shout “play on, advantage” and give either of the approved arm signals - see images.

If the advantage does not develop and play is within the same phase, you should stop play and penalise the original offence where it occurred.

If you play advantage you can speak to or caution the offending player as appropriate at the next stoppage in play.

What criteria do you think you should consider when applying advantage? (fill in the blanks)

1) 
2) 
3) 
4)
Keep a record of:

• when a goal is scored
• the result of the match
• substitutes’ names
• details of cautions/send offs
• other misconduct.

Disciplinary Powers:

• You may caution a player
• You may send a player from the field of play
• You may take action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner

Any disciplinary action must be noted and submitted to the authorities.

Made a mistake?

If the referee makes a mistake (e.g. awards a free kick the wrong way) the decision may be changed to the correct one as long as play has not restarted.

The ball is back in play when: *(tick box)*

a) The referee blows their whistle to restart play
b) The ball is kicked or thrown back in to play
Neutral Assistants – can help you control the game by assisting and advising on incidents that occur during the game, some of which you may not have seen or heard.

Club Assistants – keep instructions simple. Ask them to indicate ball in and out of play, direction of the throw-in and offside should they be capable. Tell them where to stand (e.g. on the touchline in the half of the field nearer to your own teams left back.)

Remember the final decision is that of the referee!

For further information on the Fourth Official and Additional Assistant Referees, see page 54 in the IFAB Laws of the Game book.

07 / THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

A match last for two equal halves of □□□□ Mins

Players are entitled to an interval at half-time, not exceeding □□□□ Mins

You may lose time in a half through:

• Assessment and/or removal of injured players

• Stoppages for drinks or other medical reasons permitted by competition rules

•

•

•

•
Dropped Ball

A dropped ball is a method of restarting play when, while the ball is still in play, the referee is required to stop play temporarily for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game.

When is the ball in play?

How many players do you need for a dropped ball?

Kick-Off

The kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play: at the start of a match, after a goal is scored, at the start of the second half of the match and at the start of each period of extra time (where applicable).

Who decides which goal to attack?

Where must the players be before kick off?
09 / THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play when?

10 / DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH

When is a goal scored?

When would you take kicks from the penalty mark?
11 / OFFSIDE

It is NOT an offence to be in an offside position.

If a player is in an offside position, the referee must decide:

1) Is the player interfering with play?
2) Is the player interfering with an opponent?
3) Is the player gaining an advantage by being in that position?

If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player’s own half of the field of play.

What do you think constitutes interfering with play?
### 12 / FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

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<th>List the 7 Cautionable offences:</th>
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The following conditions must be met for an offence to be considered a foul:

1) It must be committed by a player
2) It must occur on the field of play
3) It must occur while the ball is in play

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force: *(fill in the blanks)*

- Kicks of attempts to kick
- (fill in the blanks)
- (fill in the blanks)
- Strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
Define these 3 types of foul challenges:

CARELESS

RECKLESS

EXCESSIVE FORCE

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:  (fill in the blanks)

- 
- Holds an opponent
- 
- 
- 
13 / FREE KICKS

What are the two types of free kick?

Direct Free Kicks

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the offence occurred.

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

If a direct free kick is kicked in to a team's own goal, what would you do?

If a foul is committed by a defending player on the goal line of their own penalty area, what decision should you give?

a) Direct free kick

b) Indirect free kick

c) Penalty kick
13 / FREE KICKS

Indirect Free Kicks

A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick.

How far must the opposition be from the ball at an indirect free kick?

Below is the referees signal, indicating an indirect free kick.

At the taking of a free kick, when is the ball in play?
**14 / THE PENALTY KICK**

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area or off the field as part of play as outlined in Laws 12 and 13.

Can the goalkeeper move along the goal line before the kick is taken? 

- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

The players other than the taker must be located: *(fill in the blanks)*

- Inside the [ ]
- Outside of the penalty area
- Behind the [ ]
- At least [ ] m from the penalty mark
15 / THE THROW-IN

A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

Can a goalkeeper take a throw-in with their gloves on?

Yes

No

16 / THE GOAL KICK

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored.

If the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area from a goal kick, what should happen?

[Blank]

[Blank]

[Blank]

[Blank]
17 / THE CORNER KICK

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team.

Can the corner flag be removed in order to take a corner kick?  
Yes  ☐  No  ☐

How far must the opponents be from the ball at the taking of a corner?  
.  ☐  M  ☐
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Now you have completed this Pre-Course Activity Pack, The FA Referee Course is just around the corner!! Please find below a few Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that you may have with details of what to expect on your Referee Course journey.....

What clothing should I wear/bring with me?
As the course is practically based, you will need to wear adequate outdoor clothing and football kit ready to participate in practical activities which may include playing match scenarios. You should also bring wet weather gear as the one thing we are unable to guarantee is the weather.

What footwear will I need to bring?
As we will be both indoors and outside during the course, in a classroom environment and on a grass/3G pitch, you will need indoor trainers and football boots for pitch use.

Will I need to purchase a whistle and flags for the course?
As part of your course fee you will be supplied with a whistle and red/yellow cards. Flags will be provided by the tutors for use on the course.

What sort of practical activities will I be involved in during the course?
You will act as a referee, assistant referee and a player during the course. This will require you to be fit enough to get involved in all of these capacities. You will at some stages be part of a match scenario.

Will I require a packed lunch/refreshments/etc?
Yes, lunch is not provided and you should bring your own lunch and refreshments for the duration of the course. There will be adequate times factored in for water breaks and lunch. Please be aware that not all venues will have access to refreshments which is why we recommend you bring them with you. In sunny weather you may wish to consider bringing and using your own sun screen protection (lotion/cream/hat).
What happens upon completion of the course?

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be allocated your first five games as a referee. During at least two of these games a mentor/observer will be with you to offer support and ensure your experience is a positive one.

After I have completed my five games am I fully qualified?

No, you will then need to complete UNIT 6 where you will sit the Referees Examination. This is a written multiple choice exam. Once this has been completed your tutor will facilitate a session where you will share your experiences from your first five games, with the other candidates. At the conclusion of the session the examination results will be announced. If successful you will become a fully registered referee.

What other support is available?

Your Referee Development Officer at your County Football Association will be on hand to support and guide you as you take your first steps in refereeing.

‘If you can dream it, you can do it.....’

The FA Referees’ Department
The Football Association
Wembley Stadium
PO BOX 1966
London SW1P 9EQ