

2023



# REFEREE YOUTH VOICE RESULTS 2023



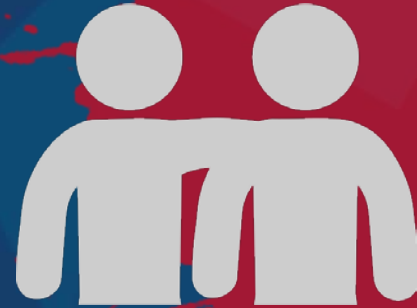
RESPECT

#Weonlydo positive

# THE BREAKDOWN



Level 6 – 2%  
Level 7 – 30%  
Trainee Referee – 2%  
Youth Referee – 66%



Aged 14 – 9%  
Aged 15 – 47%  
Aged 16 – 31%  
Aged 17 – 13%



YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS

2023

# WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

"I enjoy connecting with the players and meeting new people. I enjoy players, parents and managers thanking me at the end of games."

"I enjoy making the most of the opportunities refereeing provides, and having something productive to do at weekends."

"I enjoy being involved in football more than just playing it."

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS



# WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

"Allowing people to enjoy the game while having fun yourself."

"I enjoy being involved in football more than just playing it."

"Watching younger kids enjoy game like I did"

"Helping improve game quality because there is a referee"

"Everything"

"Being able to help young players develop their skills"

"Keeps passion for football without playing"

"The action and if a games good quality"

"Seeing football from a different perspective and helping players develop and understand the game"

"Being involved with football and providing the opportunity to give younger players an opportunity to play football."

"I enjoy connecting with the players and meeting new people. I enjoy players, parents and managers thanking me at the end of games."

"Chance to stay involved"

"The support from the County FA"

"The experience you gain from it"

"Having the opportunity for other young people to play football safely and with out worrying about not having a qualified referee."

"The ability to view a game differently and understand how other officials would view a game and why they would give certain decisions."

"Being in control of the game"

"Been part of a game, seeing some good football, helping young players and of course getting paid"

"Helping the my local club"

"I enjoy watching the teams play football"

"Keeping the players safe and watch everyone's enjoyment towards the sport"

"Being able to enable kids to enjoy playing football as much as I do which can only be done in a safe fair environment which is my duty to provide Keeps me fit. Meet some nice people. A very nice and welcoming community"

"Learning more about football"

"Developing skills and confidence."

"When parents compliment your performance after the game"

"I enjoy making the most of the opportunities refereeing provides, and having something productive to do at weekends."

"Fitness, making decisions, meeting people"



2023  
**YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS**

# WHAT DO YOU NOT ENJOY?

"Being shouted at by coaches and parents"

"I don't enjoy the amount of shouting on the sidelines especially from parents  
The abuse for the spectators"

"When players argue with your decisions because it knocks your confidence."

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS



# WHAT DO YOU NOT ENJOY?

"Abuse"

"Constant unfair negative comments provide when making a decision that I believe to be correct."

"Sometimes players parents and managers try and shout things but I don't take it to heart and I just get on with the game unless action needs to be taken"

"Being screamed at"

"The pressure that is on you when are refereeing"

"Abuse"

"Verbal abuse"

"Abuse from players and parents"

"Sidelines/Parents who don't know law"

"The people who are always trying to tell me how to ref"

"Being shouted at by coaches and parents"

"When players question your decision throughout your game"

"I sometimes don't enjoy the parents side comments when I make a decision."

"The unknown before each match"

"When parents get involved"

"Lack of respect on the field of play"

"I don't enjoy the amount of shouting on the sidelines especially from parents  
The abuse for the spectators"

"Parents and coaches shouting onto the pitch at me or the players  
dealing with difficult parents"

"The occasional abuse received from club officials."

"The argumentative watchers"

"Abuse in the game, conflict from players and sometimes the weather"

"Getting decisions wrong"

"People shouting from the sidelines"

"Getting abused by fans, players and coaches."

"The occasional argument over a decision"

"How sick I feel right before going on to the pitch every  
single time before knowing what kind of audience  
you have to deal with today"

"Some of the abuse from players, parents and coaches"

"When parents and coaches are having a go at me"



**YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS**

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# WHAT DO YOU NOT ENJOY?

- "The anxiety of challenges from parents, players and coaches."
- "Parents and coaches complaining and interfering with little knowledge or understanding."
- "Hate from sidelines"
- "Annoying parents"
- "When players argue with your decisions because it knocks your confidence."
- "The abuse towards me from the sideline , managers and players  
Inconsiderate managers."
- "A small minority of parents/supporters."
- "The new heading rule"
- "Travelling to games, though this is not something you guys can do to help"
- "When teams / parents express anger towards my decisions"
- "Early wake up"
- "When parents/coaches shout 'ref!' And question what I decide"
- "The abuse and parents behaviour"
- "Coaches and parent behaviour"

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**YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS**

# 100%

Said they feel that North Riding  
County FA supports them in  
their role as a referee

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YOUTH VOICE  
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“They offer lots of training and support with  
issue and they will help as soon as they know”

“Excellent coaching work and development  
sessions”

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YOUTH VOICE  
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# HOW HAS NRCFA SUPPORTED YOU?

"Appointing referee mentors"

"Put sessions on and always have people available if you need support."

"Excellent mentors with constant feedback in order to improve our refereeing abilities."

"The original course itself gave me a lot of information on the laws of the game that aren't as obvious and also how to deal with high pressure situations. Also having a mentor that comes and watches now and again and gives me tips on how to improve"

"Holding training events"

"The system to report things"

"Answers any feedback"

"Providing me with advice and support on tough decisions"

"Core development groups, mentors/match assessors, Paul Stalker in general"

"Giving a mentor who you can go towards"

"When problems have occurred, someone is always contacted me about them"

"That there is always somebody at the end of the phone"

"They help you cope with struggles and really teach you on how to deal with issues on the pitch."

"Helped me when I had a tough time at a match. Jasmine Morris invited me to be part of her referee team for the disability Counts league matches which I enjoy"

"They do referee training sessions so that we know what to do and to not do in an incident"

"Excellent coaching work and development sessions"

"They always push me to be a better referee."

"They offer lots of training and support with issues and they will help as soon as they know"

"They gave me a mentor and hold sessions regularly to help"

"Provides constant training so that we feel able to referee to full extent."

"My mentor was constantly there for me, providing me with assistance and support whilst also coming to the majority of my games. I was also provided with high levels of support when I had to report an incident from multiple people associated with NRCFA."

"Through my mentor"

"Helped with reporting a club's parents' behaviour, mentor contactable to chat, training and catch sessions"



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**YOUTH VOICE  
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# HOW HAS NRCFA SUPPORTED YOU?

"My mentor"

"Always offer support and have mentors available to talk"

"Keeps us safe and makes us feel welcome and helps me to become more confident"

"Lots of options to meet and talk if needed be"

"When I've had issues, they have all been resolved pretty quickly, anyone helping has been nice, understanding and very helpful"

"Giving us mentors"

"Yes, but at times I feel out of the loop."

"The mentoring through James Gerring has been exceptional"

"I can report stuff that isn't right and they will help me"

"If anything bad happens with a coach, or fan or player, you don't need to worry because the NRCFA will always help you through it."

"Andy Kay has been an amazing support to me in my first season as a referee. Nothing is too much trouble for him. Also, when I had an incident at a game, the NRCFA emailed me to ask for my version of events and to check if I was ok. The support is great."

"There always there Incase I need to speak to someone about a game Mentor"

"I have had messages/feedback of positive comments and also let me know if I ever need help just to ask. Andy Kay is a great support knowing he'll always be available for help"

"They have a great team that you can message if you want help"

"We have our mentor who we can contact if we feel confused or if we need to ask for help"

"Always there to provide help and support"

"Mentor"

"If I needed anything I can just email"

"Workshops"

"First class mentoring and support. The County FA generally cares about us."

"Excellent support immediately after games, I had an issue with parents and coaches and received a phone very call from Ross Joyce within hours making sure I was ok before my mentor called later that evening to make sure I was also ok and support me with putting together a report. My parents also received an email during the week from Ross, this made me feel very well supported and valued after a bad experience early in my refereeing journey and ensured I am still refereeing. All the mentors and coaches are excellent and I cant thank them enough."



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**YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS**



"Uncomfortable, demotivated  
and psychological uneasy"

HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

"Like I was not good  
enough to be a  
referee"

68%

Have experienced personal  
abuse from either parents or  
club officials

"Effected my mental health  
severely"

"Made me feel  
intimidated and  
upset"

"It makes me question my  
decisions"

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS

# HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

"Uncomfortable, dismotivated and psychological uneasy"

"I just move on with it unless action needs taking. I don't take it to heart"

"Annoyed"

"Annoyed"

"Not good, but it didn't have a lasting impact"

"Not really bothered"

"Intimated, upset"

"It made me feel quite upset, but I feel like I dealt with it in a way that made me feel better."

"Effected my mental health severely"

"Didn't really bother me - but it needs to stop in the sport as a whole"

"It make me feel anxious"

"It makes me question my decisions"

"Intimidated"

"Initially it made me feel rather intimidated and quite shocked as this was not something I had expected from club officials in youth football. But after receiving support from the county I felt much better and understood how to deal with this in future."

"Pressured"

"Upset and maybe a little angry"

"Made me feel intimidated and upset"

"A bit upsetting but I will always take action of any sort of abuse towards me."

"Scrutinized"

"Upset, but tried to ignore them after dealing with them as I should"

"Like I was not good enough to be a referee"

"I really don't care about it because they are mainly wrong and it reflects more on them than on me"

"Didn't really care because j know football can make people annoyed  
Knocks my confidence"

"Felt intimidated, uncomfortable and disrespected"

"Occasional comments but nothing I would ever class as abuse. It was just negative comments on decisions I have made. Honestly, i don't let it bother me. I play at a good level so have confidence in my decisions."

"Didn't take any notice of it and dealt with it"

"Deflated"



**YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS**

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# 96%

Of officials wear their yellow  
armbands to identify them as a  
youth referee

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"yes because people sometimes come to realisation I'm still a child"

"Yes. But I have had a few coaches who are not aware of what the armband represents."

"People see I am wearing it and don't give me much abuse or shout at me"

## WHY DO YOU WEAR OR NOT WEAR IT?

"Feel like it brings attention to the match official especially in open-age games."

"I don't always wear it, but, I don't think I get treated differently wearing it or not"

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS

# 88%

Said they'd like to progress their  
refereeing career and move up  
the refereeing pyramid

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS

# 98%

Rated the quality of Referee  
Development in the county as  
either excellent or good

2023



YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS



## ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

"I have really enjoyed by first season as a referee and have felt fully supported. Whilst I haven't really had any problems, I know what I would need to do, who I would need to go to etc, if I did."

"North Riding FA are exceptional and really look after and support their referees. Excellent and regular communication"

"it's quite good, possible more frequent checkups on how we're doing and talk to us about decisions we made maybe"

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YOUTH VOICE  
RESULTS

## BREAKDOWN



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Level 7 – 30%  
Trainee Referee – 2%  
Youth Referee – 66%



Aged 14 – 9%  
Aged 15 – 47%  
Aged 16 – 31%  
Aged 17 – 13%

## SAFEGUARDING



Do you have one of our U18  
Yellow Referee Armbands?

98%  
said yes

96%  
wear them

"yes because people  
sometimes come to  
realisation I'm still a child"

"Feel like it brings attention to  
the match official especially  
in open-age games."

"People see I am wearing it and don't  
give me much abuse or shout at me"

"I don't always wear it, but, I don't think I  
get treated differently wearing it or not"



## CAREER



Do you want to  
progress your  
Refereeing career &  
move up the refereeing  
pyramid?

88%  
said yes



Do you feel that North Riding County  
FA supports you well enough in your  
role as a Referee?

"They offer lots of training and support with issue and they will help as  
soon as they know"

100%  
said yes



How would you rate the  
quality of Referee  
Development within North  
Riding County FA?



In your role as a Referee have you  
experienced any personal abuse  
(Abusive or Insulting behaviour /  
conduct towards you) from Club  
officials or parents?

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

"I enjoy connecting with the players  
and meeting new people. I enjoy  
players, parents and managers  
thanking me at the end of games."



"I enjoy making the most of the  
opportunities refereeing  
provides, and having something  
productive to do at  
weekends."

"I enjoy being involved in  
football more than just playing  
it."

"Excellent coaching work and development sessions"



## WHAT DO YOU NOT ENJOY?

"I don't enjoy the amount of shouting on the sidelines especially from parents  
The abuse for the spectators"

"When players argue with your decisions because it knocks your confidence."

"Being shouted at by coaches and parents"

98%  
said  
excellent or  
good

68%  
said yes

"Uncomfortable, demotivated and  
psychological uneasy"

"Effected my mental health severely"

"Like I was not good enough to be a  
referee"



# RESPECT

## #Weonlydopositive



Inspiring and developing our beautiful game,  
so that it may grow.



**RESPECT**

*#Weonlydo positive*