

National Referee Development Programme (NRDP) Process

The FA National Referee Development Programme has been designed to ensure that all referees are supported in completing their initial 6 games and are retained through the early stages of their refereeing career. Beyond this stage, once they have finished their basic training, those demonstrating further potential and commitment after their first season are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential and develop onto the later stages of the programme.

Basic Referee Training Course

Modules 1 – 3 successfully completed and RA Membership offered

National Referee Development Programme (For Module 4 - First 6 games)

Exit Strategy via

1. Personal choice
2. Failure to adhere to the principles of the programme

Stage 1: Entry to the Programme

RDO/CTO & Referee Tutor to allocate Level 9 referee to Partner League/Club to complete initial 6 games and allocate mentor

Stage 1 completed when referee completes Module 5 and is reclassified to Level 8 or 7.

Exit Strategy via

1. Personal choice
2. Failure to adhere to the principles of the programme

Stage 2: Support and Retention

RDO/CTO oversees placement of Level 8 or 7 referees with Partner League(s) or Partner Club and reaffirms mentor allocation. Mentor to establish goals / targets for referee. Referees will stay in Stage 2 for a maximum of 1 playing season however referees can be accelerated to Stage 3 if identified as having potential to progress more quickly.

Exit Strategy via

1. Personal choice
2. Failure to adhere to the principles of the programme
3. Failure to show potential at this stage

Stage 3: Development & Progression

Referee invited to join County FA Referee Academy/School of Excellence or similar set up. RDO oversees/ co-ordinates and ensures that all referees are allocated a Coach. This stage supports referees to reach Level 5/4.

Exit Strategy via

1. Personal choice
2. Failure to adhere to the principles of the programme
3. Promotion to Level 3

Stage 4: Further Development & Progression

Referees who display exceptional potential during Stage 3 will be nominated for and be part of a Regional Development Group and may attend the Young Referees Conference (if aged 18-25) exchange programmes etc. They will have reached Level 4 or be an exceptional level 5.