The FA Charter Standard Club Programme Refereeing Recruitment and Development Policy

Football Club Refereeing Recruitment and Development Policy

There are three main advantages for clubs to develop their own referees:

1. If a referee isn't appointed to your game you have someone within your club with knowledge and experience who can officiate.

2. If a referee is appointed to your game you have an assistant who is qualified as a referee.

3. You have someone available to assist in educating your club members and players with regard to the Laws of the Game, thus enhancing their enjoyment of football.

How to become a referee:

All County Football Associations regularly organise referee training courses.

The course is now modular based, has a practical focus and includes refereeing six games as a trainee referee. The final module looks at the next steps to take to progress your refereeing. There are exams, both multiple choice and video analysis.

What happens next?

On completing the course, you become a Level 7 referee. Under 16s are registered as a Level 8 referee and can only officiate in youth football. Many County Football Associations organise a mentoring or coaching scheme to support their newly-qualified referees. You can referee as often as you wish. For those who take to refereeing and enjoy the unique and important role referees play in football, there is a career pathway which could one day lead to games in semi-professional and professional football.

Promotion through the levels will be based on a referee's performance, assessments, attendance at in-service training events, and successful completion from time to time of exams on the Laws of the Game.

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Refereeing onwards and upwards

Level 8 - Youth Referee

Level 7 - Junior County Referee

Level 6 - County Referee

Level 5 - Senior County Referee

Level 4 - Supply League Referee

Level 3 - Contributory League Referee

Level 2 - Panel League Referee

Level 1 - National & International List of Referees

Once you have got the refereeing bug - the sky's the limit!