

# Refereeing

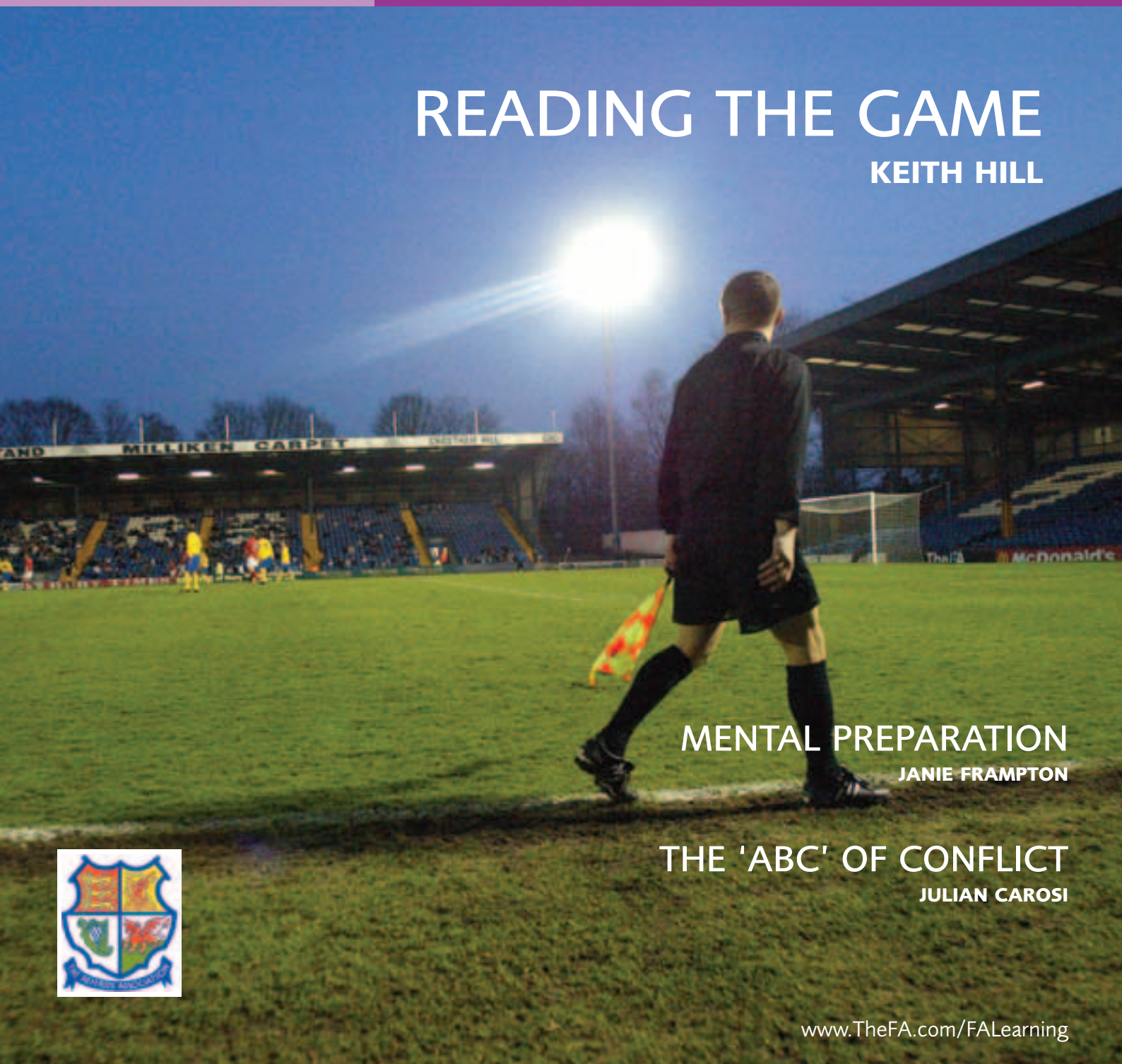
Joint Publication of The FA and the RA



Summer 2006

## READING THE GAME

KEITH HILL



MENTAL PREPARATION

JANIE FRAMPTON

THE 'ABC' OF CONFLICT

JULIAN CAROSI





# LAW 4 - THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Law 4 of The Laws of the Game states that "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery)"

This Law exists to protect the safety of players.

Exception:

A player, who can satisfy the referee prior to the game that their PLAIN WEDDING BAND is unable to be removed, will be allowed to cover it with tape. (This only applies to a plain wedding band and no other type of jewellery)

This amendment is to ensure that no jewellery, which can be physically removed, is worn by players. It recognises the fact that, sometimes through the passage of time, wedding bands become extremely difficult to remove.

Neale Barry  
Head of Senior Referee Development

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# PART OF A TEAM

BY GEOFF THOMPSON



Welcome to the first FA and RA joint publication. There is little doubt that the work carried out by the referees department at The FA and that of the Referees' Association are compatible. This magazine offers further evidence to suggest that both parties are working in unison for the betterment of our referees.

Officiating at whatever level in the country requires unique skills and attributes. There is a need to be confident, assertive and calm, a good manager of people and an effective decision-maker. It's not always an easy job but one which can be enjoyable. Some 40,000 games take place in this country over a weekend during the season. Only two thirds of those games are officiated by a registered, qualified referee. We need more referees but just as importantly we need to ensure we retain our current workforce of match officials. Again I see the benefits of both The FA and RA working together to ensure effective recruitment and retention strategies are in place.

The FA provides training and development opportunities for all our 33,000 referees whereas the Referees Association offers support, advice and guidance through its 300 plus branches. The two bodies are very much an integral part of referee development in this country. We need to show that refereeing is fun but at the same time demonstrate that there are opportunities to progress if motivated and committed to do so. This is where I believe both parties have a lot to offer in terms of a partnership.

A key aspect of ensuring all referees are kept up to date with new ideas, law amendments and news on refereeing matters involves effective communication. I believe that this publication will ensure that both bodies are communicating effectively with their clients, our referees.

I wish the Editorial Team and all those involved in this exciting venture the best of luck; I fully endorse the concept of working in partnership for our referees.

Chairman  
Geoff Thompson

**Geoff Thompson is a football man who has served the game with integrity, humility and passion across his home country and continental Europe for nearly 40 years. Elected to The Council of The FA in 1979, he became its Chairman in 1998. He was elected to the UEFA Executive Committee in 2000 and is now a member of UEFA's Meridian Board, Vice-chairman of the Hat-Trick Board and a member of the Joint FIFA/UEFA Working Group for Development.**

# A MAGAZINE for all Referees

BY DAVID ELLERAY



In my dual roles as Vice-Chairman of The Football Association Referees' Committee and Honorary President of the Referees' Association England (RAE), I am absolutely delighted that this venture to produce a combined FA/RA refereeing magazine for distribution to all referees, has come to fruition.

This publication is a wonderful reflection of the excellent co-operation and happy relationship that now exists between all the major organisations involved with refereeing in this country.

This is no forced coming together, as the senior refereeing figures at The FA, Ray Lewis (Chairman FA Referees' Committee), Neale Barry (Head of Senior Referee Development) and Ian Blanchard (Head of National Referee Development), all have a long and distinguished association with the RA. For example, Ian was Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the East Riding Society. Those of you who have heard any of them speak, will know that they may work primarily for The FA, but are RA through and through. Equally, Keith Hackett (General Manager of the PGMOL) spoke warmly of his organisation's close working relationship with The FA and the RAE, at both the RA and PGMOL Conferences. Keith, too, has a long association with the RA and The FA. We all genuinely want to work together for the good of refereeing at all levels in this country.

"Everyone involved with referees will receive the magazine free of charge."

Why a joint publication? The change in style of the RA magazine when it became Refereeing Today, whilst demonstrating a fresh approach, meant that there was a danger of an overlap with The FA's regular referee publications. It was clear that by pooling our resources, The FA and RA could (and should) work together to produce a top quality publication distributed to all.

It is our combined hope that this magazine will be a significant step forward for refereeing in this country at all levels. Everyone involved with referees will receive the magazine free of charge, and we will be inviting contributions from all levels of the game. I am confident that the Editorial Team will strive very hard to produce something, which is enjoyable and informative. I also have no doubt that the regular editions will be of great practical help to active and non-active officials alike and will make a very valuable contribution to refereeing.

Please do not be afraid to let the Editorial Team know what you think of each issue and, more importantly, let us know what you would like featured in future issues.

Whether you are an active referee, an assessor, a mentor, a coach or someone who is just interested in refereeing, may I wish you a fruitful and enjoyable season 2006-07.

Happy reading!

**David Elleray is the Honorary President of the Referees' Association England (RAE), former FIFA referee and the Vice-Chairman of The FA Referees' Committee and a member of the UEFA Referees' Committee. He works for FIFA, UEFA, The FA and Middlesex FA, assessing and developing referees at all levels. He is the Director of Boarding at Harrow School.**



# READING THE GAME

A REFEREE'S PERSPECTIVE

BY KEITH HILL

Reading the game and the implications for the referee in positioning and movement






It is often said that "referees would have a better awareness of the game if they had been players". This statement is strongly refuted by referees at all levels, although I believe a referee has an obligation to understand the game from a player's perspective to enable them to improve their awareness and hence their positioning and movement throughout open and set play situations.

To read the game as a referee, you must be one step ahead of play, anticipating the next move of the phase of play before it happens. This gives you more reaction-time for you to become pro-active rather than re-active to situations that may occur.

This is achievable by several means. If you read the body language of the player playing the ball, such as the direction they are looking and the open angle of the body, it will give a good indication of which direction the flight of the ball will take. You then have to judge the weight of the pass as to where the dropping zone might be. This can also be achieved by looking at the body language of the kicker and how much physical strength they are putting into the pass. Communication is another tool in which we can anticipate play. Listen to 'the call' from the team-mates of the player with the ball. This can often give an indication of the options open to the kicker and which direction they are coming from.

#### Motivation

- Good positioning and movement by a referee enhances his/her control and encourages good football
- To promote the need to be in the right place at the right time, as an effective element in establishing and maintaining control
- A good referee is aware that careful thought, observation and movement is essential
- A good referee will maintain a high level of concentration throughout a match, demonstrating that he or she is mentally as well as physically alert
- A good referee knows that he/she needs to be well placed if their judgements are to be convincing



The focus of football is on the scoring of goals.  
A good referee will therefore be as close as possible to the goal line to judge all play near the goal area.

- Good positioning and movement from referees and their assistants is therefore essential for the whole of a match.

#### **Positioning - a location taken in order to make credible decisions**

The Diagonal System, wide but 'in touch'

The diagonal system helps a referee to be in a good position to gain and maintain control. This enables the referee to look at play but not get mixed up in it. 'Wide' means staying nearly levelled with play. Control comes from staying close enough to see and understand what is happening. This helps a referee to anticipate and be in a good position to judge what may happen next.

- There is no longer a rigid patrol path of 'wide' and 'deep'. Player's skills and tactics will dictate the width and depth of the referee's optimum diagonal/patrol path
- Early in the game try to ascertain the formation and positional play of key players, whether you have a wide player, or a deep defender or if the formation is 4-4-2 or any other combination
- Anticipation of play before the decision whether to stop, to keep going or to change direction
- To anticipate what happens next, watch the play and not the ball
- Keeping the action between the referee and the assistant and changing track to stay outside play. By doing so, the referee will be likely to see any signal immediately. As the play moves about the field, the referee will need to change track to watch play and keep the assistant in view. He/she should react to the changes of direction of play and seek the best possible view of the action and the appropriate assistant. Good positioning of referees and assistant referees is essential for effective match control.

#### **Movement/changes of positions**

Good anticipation is a balance between judging where play is likely to go next and anticipating where you, the referee, are likely to be needed next. Mostly the two ideas go hand in hand. A referee must constantly monitor and interpret each changing situation and move accordingly. Remembering that being close to play means you are close to decisions, which enhances credibility.

- A referee will sometimes need to assess tactical possibilities of both defence and attack and quickly look both ways. Running backwards in this example gets him out of the way of the anticipated shot and also keeps most of the players in view
- The referee must at all times face the action in open play, whilst aiming to keep the maximum number of players in sight. Facing the action is clearly necessary for good control by the referee. He/she is constantly aware of potential conflict, which when recognised early and dealt with at speed will aid to heighten and maintain his/her level of control. The more players a referee can see, the better he/she will anticipate the next phase of play
- A good referee is never still when the ball is in play
- Avoid following the ball, which will pull you in to moving up and down the centre of the field, always aim to achieve a wider view
- Aim to take up a sideways-on position to the dropping zone of the ball. This may mean a last minute adjustment in your movement in order to obtain the optimum viewing point to challenges, which leads to an accurate interpretation in your decision making. A referee needs both awareness and agility to obtain this viewing point and must avoid having his view blocked by other players
- A referee should whenever possible follow play through to the goal line without detriment to the next phase of play. The focus of football is on the scoring of goals. A good referee will therefore be as close as possible to the goal line to judge all play near the goal area. He/she will keep in mind the possibility that defenders may clear the ball quickly with a long pass up the field

- Use dead-ball time to obtain an optimum position to view the restart of play. By thinking clearly, he/she can wisely use the time to obtain a favourable position for not only viewing the restart of play but to be in a good position to judge and anticipate the tactical options for the next phase of play. This 'thinking time' takes the pressure off the referee.

### Set-Plays

In all set-play situations the referee has at least two things to think about. First, he/she needs to enforce the Law correctly. Second, he/she must anticipate and make allowances for the expected development where he/she is most likely to be needed next and take up that position allowing for the level of skill of the players. Players will be aware if you are too predictable with your positioning at set-plays such as free-kicks near the penalty area or corner-kicks. Referees should vary their position as appropriate.

### Kick-Off

- The referee signals the kick-off when he is in a good position to observe correct practice
- The nearside player being out of the referee's view. The better position for the referee would be two

metres further forward and a half-turn back towards the halfway line

- Good practice: still body language of referee is calm and authoritative.

### Corner-Kick

- The referee's optimum position would be where he can view the ball and the players at the same time in the penalty area to observe any possible challenges or infringements that may occur
- When the ball is in flight the referee must move appropriately to obtain a good viewing position as play progresses being aware to keep a clear view of the ball and an awareness of player's tactical moves.

### Goal-Kick

- The referee must be sure that the Laws have been applied when placing the ball for a goal-kick; this can be supported by the assistant referee. When the ball has been placed correctly the referee then runs in a backward motion to position himself wide of where he/she expects the ball to land. From this position the referee can focus on players who are making contact with each other, whilst the ball is in flight and in the area where it is expected to arrive.





### Free-Kick

- The referee is to make sure that Law is applied for the taking of free-kicks. He/she must make sure that the defending players are at least 9.15 metres from the ball
- Good practice to be observed would be for the referee to obtain a 'panoramic' view at free-kicks in order to monitor the kicker, the wall and the potential dropping area of the ball. This position would ideally be ten to 15 metres from play
- The diagrams show good positions taken up by the referee at set-plays.

### Right place, right time - offences not missed, or 'no offence' decision

- The decision of 'no offence' is as much part of good refereeing as detecting an infringement
- Being close to play gives credibility to all decisions
- Being in the right place at the right time frequently means moving early in anticipation, maintaining contact and keeping a clear view
- Having an understanding of the tactics a team is employing can help a referee to be in the right place at the right time.

### Sprint when needed - to match the unexpected development

- The tempo of the match will sometimes dictate that the referee is doing a lot of sprinting. The duty of the referee requires that he/she reacts to circumstances and stays as close to play as possible. Sprinting could cause a referee to miss incidents and the need to watch players, not the ball; the referee requires mental alertness, which is a product of physical fitness
- In order to keep the match flowing the referee needs to anticipate how play will develop and then accelerate to keep pace with it
- In a lively match the referee will frequently need to sprint to be ready for the unexpected and get back in touch with play

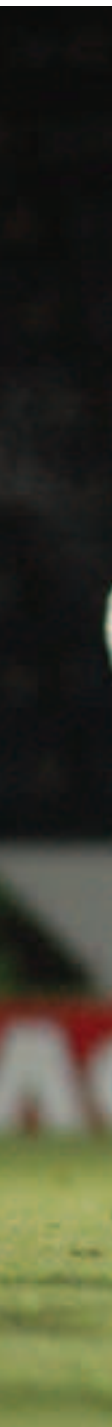
- Be aware not to sprint unnecessarily as this wastes energy.

### Pace maintained throughout - from the beginning to the end of the match

- A good referee will hope to maintain a good pace throughout the match however long it lasts. He/she will hope to maintain good levels of energy throughout the match. On his/her diagonal, he/she will stay outside the action, but make sensible use of the extremities of the field when play dictates. He/she will conserve energy by using dead-ball time wisely and by reading play. He/she will pace themselves to the demands of the match. He/she will be determined to last the pace at least as well as the players that the referee is controlling
- The referee's intention will be that decisions taken at the end of the match will be as accurate and as credible as those taken at the beginning.

The role of the referee is to control the game using the skills that are available to him/her. Awareness will enable the referee to be pro-active rather than re-active and read the next phase of play before it occurs. Positioning will allow the referee to have an optimum viewing position to make credible decisions, and movement will ensure that the referee will always be close enough to play to take up the correct position.

**Keith Hill is Regional Referees' Manager East. He is an experienced referee operating on the National List. He took up refereeing at an early age and has developed through the ranks. He is currently assisting Ray Olivier organising National and International Instructor Training Courses.**







# The Referees' ASSOCIATION

BY ALAN POULAIN

The first Referees' Society was formed in 1893 in London by Frederick Wall who was at that time a member of The FA Council and was to become Football Association Secretary from 1895-1934.

With the growth in popularity of football, more people became referees and more Referees' Societies were formed around the country. In 1908 a Union of Referees and Referees' Societies in England was formed which has grown and developed into the Referees' Association that we know today.

The Referees' Association is an organised group of people involved with refereeing which is run by referees for the benefit of referees. Administered from our Head Office in Coventry we are organised into 306 local societies. Most of our 13,500 members only experience their local society but are safe in the knowledge that we all have the support of our county and national structures.

Local societies operate like a self-help group where referees meet together to discuss different aspects of the game. We learn from and with each other to improve our refereeing skills. By discussing refereeing issues with colleagues from different levels of the game, we are able to learn from the experiences of others and to implement methods of best practice which will improve our match-day performance and increase our enjoyment from the game.

#### Benefits of membership include:

- Support and guidance from colleagues
- Continual in-house training on the interpretation and implementation of law

- Representation of members interests to and on their local league, parent County FA and National FA
- Protection from injustice and unfair treatment in refereeing related matters
- Personal Accident Insurance policy
- Benevolent fund
- Discounted prices from our RA shop supplies operation. (RAshop.co.uk)

Everyone within the football community whether players, administrators, supporters or referees all have the same objective, that is to participate in and to maximise their enjoyment from the game which we all love. It would be fair to say that we referee because we enjoy it; although it seems at times that some people do their utmost to ensure that we do not.

As a referee, you need the skills, protection, peace of mind, training, insurance and above all the camaraderie that membership of the Referees' Association will give.

We believe that everyone involved in refereeing should be a member, so contact our head office for more information:

**The Referees Association 1 Westhill Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 2AD, Telephone on 024 7660 1701 or email us at [ra@footballreferee.org](mailto:ra@footballreferee.org)**

**Alan Poulain is the Chairman of the Referees' Association England (RAE) and is still active as a referee at local level. He is the Secretary of the Huntingdon Referees' Society and works as a Company Sales Director. [a.poulain@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.poulain@ntlworld.com)**





# MENTAL PREPARATION

## How to deal with pressure on the pitch

BY JANIE FRAMPTON

In almost every sport the top fifty competitors in the world are all as strong, as fast and as skilful and have as much stamina as each other. Yet in every sport some emerge as winners and others never quite reach the podium.

The same is true of Football Match Officials. We have those who work hard on their physical fitness, hone their skills in law, application and management of people and situations. These skills and others can produce an individual performance that can reach levels unmatched by their peers.

### What is it that makes the difference?

The winners are the ones who can overcome the mental pressures of a tough game. They can ignore or feed-off the crowd, or the importance of the occasion.

### So where does the mental pressure come from?

The answer is – it comes from within! It is their own reading of the situation which causes pressure, and because it is from within it can be controlled: The winners are not necessarily born this way but have trained themselves both mentally and physically.

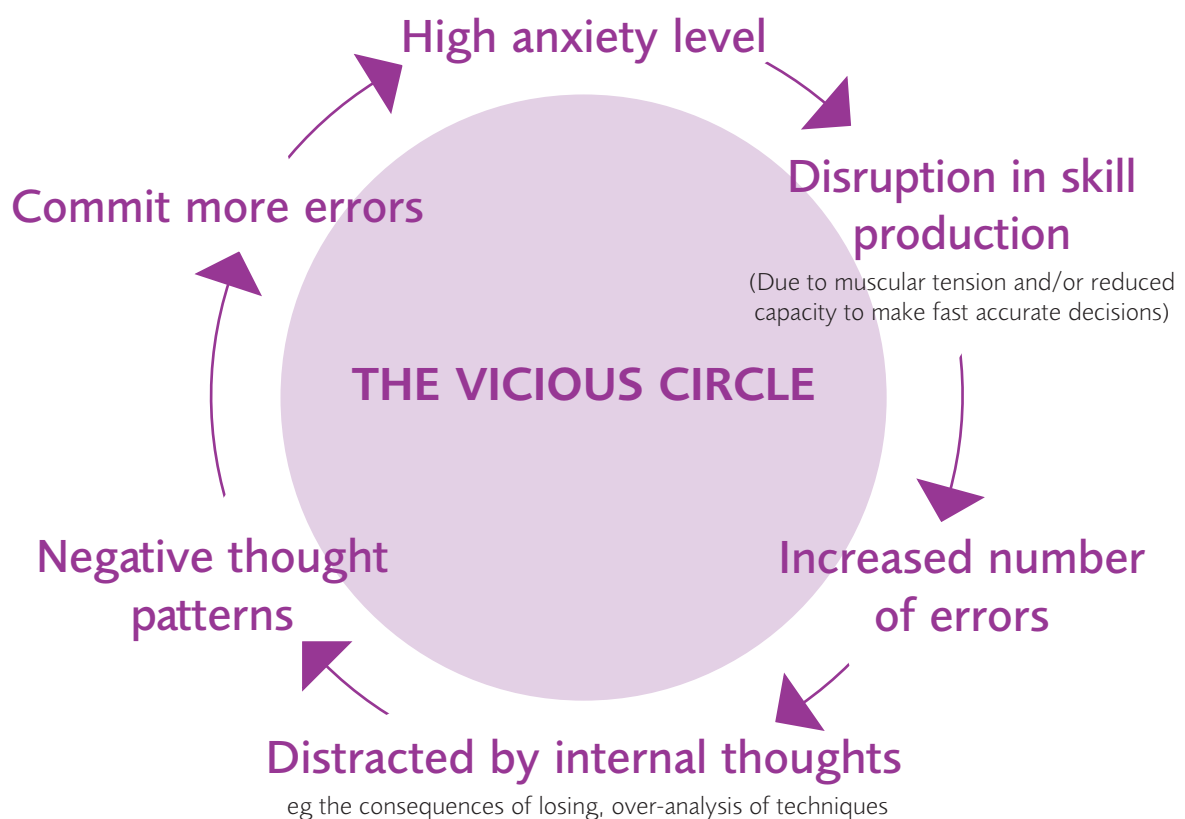
### What are the mental skills?

There are a range of skills demanded of the match official; many of them can be linked to the individual's state of mind. For instance, the first thing expected of a match official by the players and coaches is that he or she is consistent. But from where does such consistency come? It can only be the ability to focus on the game, ignore internal and external distractions and apply the law correctly in each and every situation.





AMY RAYNER



Perhaps it is a good starting point to consider the mental qualities required by looking at what would be expected from the ideal match official:

- Calm under pressure
- In control of their emotions
- Confident
- Mentally alert
- Positive.

Let us consider these points in more detail.

The good match official does not try to avoid pressure; he or she accepts that it is part of the game at all levels. Be confident that you have the skills to deal with the situation, pressure is not a threat but a challenge to be welcomed.

- Do not get upset by the challenge of the players to your decisions, they are not directing their anger at you, they do not know you! Their frustration is directed at the uniform and the authoritative role you represent.

Take a few moments to gather your thoughts and re-focus.  
Do not lose focus on the game, and keep concentration throughout.

- Show no anger, no fear and no negative emotions. The only emotion which should be shown is enjoyment. Remember, this is what we are there for!
- Be strong in your decision making; take responsibility and manage the consequences whether your decisions are right or wrong
- Be confident; assertive but not arrogant; have a determined belief in your own ability that you can perform well. This will mean that you will not be intimidated by the pressures of the occasion, or by the antics of the players
- Be able to maintain concentration on the things that matter in the game, and have the ability to 'switch-off' no matter what the pressure.

#### So how do we get there?

How do you learn to officiate under pressure? The answer is – you do not. Nobody performs well under pressure. The reason why our top officials at all levels of the game 'shine' when the stakes are highest, the competition the fiercest and the game the toughest is not because they can do it under pressure, but because they eliminate the pressure and officiate in an 'ideal mental state'!

When you are officiating at the ideal mental state:

- You feel relaxed although the adrenaline level is high
- You are a little nervous, but with a sense of calmness and confidence
- Your decisions will be made spontaneously without the conscious thought process as you will have a strong belief in your ability
- You will always feel as if you are in the right place at the right time
- You will maintain concentration and have an awareness of what is happening around you
- You will maintain control over your emotions and not become tense, therefore remaining in total control of yourself.

If you manage the above, you will eliminate the excess of pressure, which would otherwise prevent you from performing at your best.

#### So what will help you to reach the ideal mental state?

**Relaxation** – Take a few moments to gather your thoughts and re-focus.

**Concentration** – Do not lose focus on the game, and keep concentration throughout.

**Visualisation** – Visualise how you will deal with certain situations and when they occur you will then be armed with ideas on how to deal with them. These are 'closed skills', performed in isolation.

**Emotional Control** – The focus at all times must be on positive feelings. Examples of these are: Confidence, determination, relaxation and of course, above all, enjoyment.

**Attitudes** – Will controls a referee's behaviour. If you think you can, you will; if you think you have to be the best then you won't be - be yourself!

**Awareness** – By harnessing strengths and working on areas that need attention, you will become a better referee.

**Affirmations** – It is good to have affirmations that deflect pressure. Mohammed Ali said, "I am the greatest", because he believed it. This may not be a usual statement from referees, but other positive affirmations could be, "I never let emotions affect my officiating", or "I always spot the flashpoints". These are positive and will give you confidence.

#### Handling the pressure

What can be done to handle the pressures which will arise? The first aspect must be to ensure a good pre-match preparation.



### Preparing for your game

Do not change your physical preparation. This means continuing any physical training at your usual level and do not change your pattern of relaxation. Relaxation is as important as physical preparation.

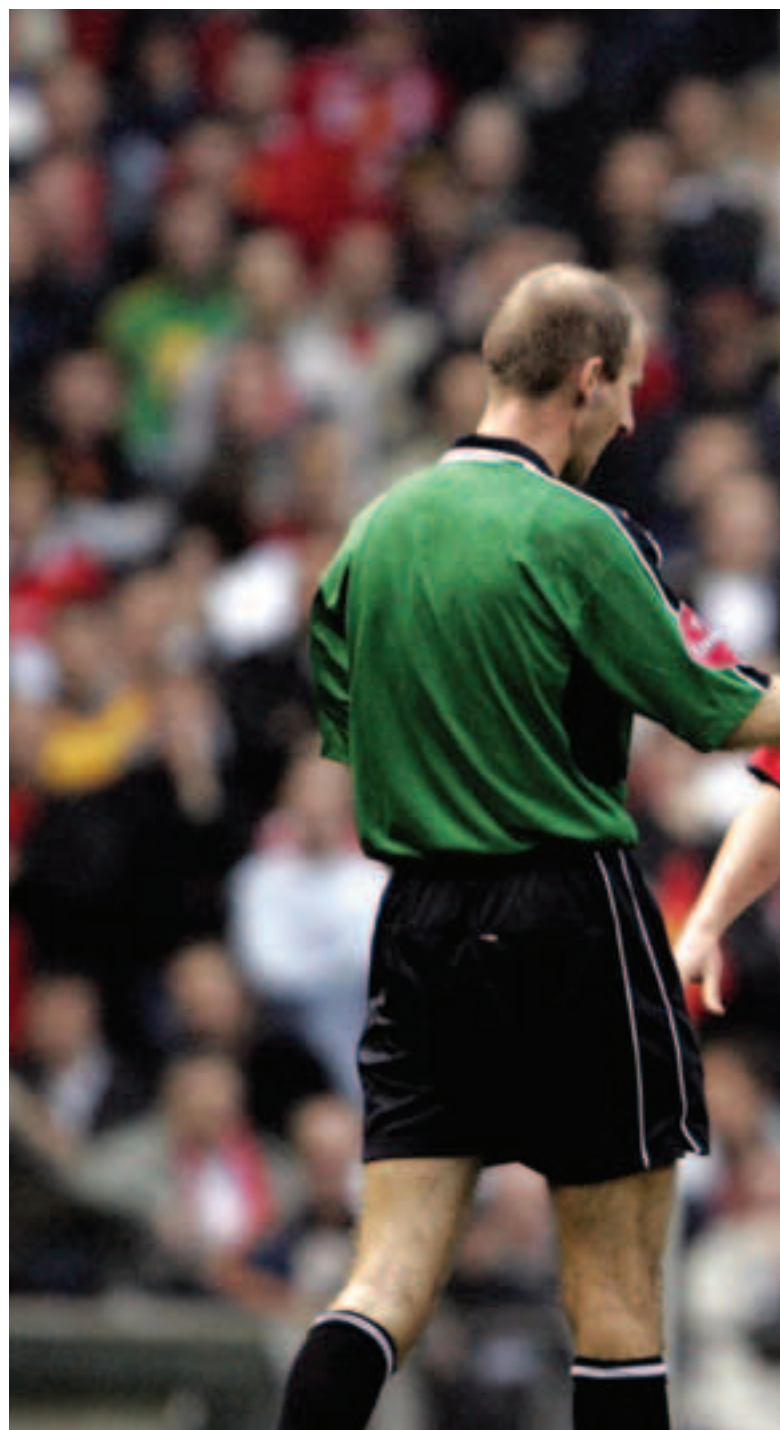
- Do prepare yourself mentally for anything which might happen
- Don't try to make changes to your refereeing technique. What you have done so far has been good enough to give you the opportunities you are receiving; only make changes to your identified areas of development
- Do a little mental rehearsal every day; see yourself refereeing in an ideal mental state
- Don't become anxious about your nerves. You will need an adrenaline flow for the game, so look forward to the 'buzz'
- Do anticipate that you will enjoy the game. You are going to perform well, be in control and you are going to handle any situation that arises.

Thought stopping!

- Control unwanted thoughts
- Manage emotions
- Maintain composure
- Re-focus to task
- Positive mental attitudes
- Improve consistency.

Negative thoughts have no value, park them and move on!

**Janie Frampton, Regional Referees' Manager South. Until 2004 she was a Level 3 Referee as well as operating as an Assistant Referee in numerous women's games in Europe. She is an experienced educator both in coaching and refereeing. Please feel free to forward your ideas on this subject to: [Janie.Frampton@TheFA.com](mailto:Janie.Frampton@TheFA.com)**







Refereeing In England

# MY FIRST EXPERIENCE

BY UNA HONG



In August 2005 I came to England to do a PhD course in Sport Policy at Loughborough University. Previously in 2000 I visited Liverpool as an exchange student during which time I refereed local matches. Everyone I met through football was very kind and nice to me during my stay.

Thanks to The FA, I have been refereeing in the Leicestershire Senior League as well as running the line in the Contributory League. I also referee on Wednesdays at University games at Loughborough, men's and women's. It is a great experience and I feel honoured that I can acquire refereeing experiences in the country that is the origin of football.

I enjoy refereeing and meeting English referees who are very supportive and friendly. I am sure that sharing experiences and providing support for each other is a key part of refereeing life. I enjoy training with other referees who live very nearby. I found out it is very efficient and enjoyable to train with referee colleagues rather than train on my own.

As you can imagine, the Senior League is one of the toughest leagues in the world. I was told many times from referee friends, "if you referee well in the Senior League, you can referee any game in this country". I can now understand what they meant. It is very tough! All I can do is to try to make correct decisions during the 90 minutes, although they will always find something to complain about. While travelling to other towns for the Contributory League, I was very impressed to see the way clubs in England are run, which demonstrates the power of English football. Each club is very well organised and relies on local sponsorship to survive. This is an area that I want to study as part of my degree course.

Since coming to England, I have participated in the FIFA Second Workshop in Portugal in March 2006 as a FIFA Referee. It was the workshop for the corps of the referees for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China. I learned a lot and undertook various tests such as the FIFA New Fitness Test, Laws of the Game Test and English Test.

I have just come back from Japan where I refereed a friendly match between Japan and the USA on 9 May. As a fourth official I had seen the USA playing in last year's Algarve Cup's Final but this year it was the first time for me to referee them. The FIFA Ranking shows that they are currently second in the world. Having refereed that match, I have no doubt that they are one of the greatest teams in women's football.

On 7 May 2006 both teams played in Kumamoto and the USA won 3:1. I was a fourth official at that game. Japan desperately needed to win, however, the USA were determined to keep a clean sheet. The atmosphere in the Nagai Stadium in Osaka was fantastic. There were about 16,000 spectators in the first half, but by the second half 50,000 seats were almost full due to the following Men's Kirin Cup game, Japan vs. Bulgaria. It was 24°C and perfect conditions to play football. Both teams played very well and showed good manner. The first half ended 0:0. It was Natasha Kai who came off the bench in the 54th minute who opened the scoring and thereafter the captain of the USA, Kristine Lilly, headed the 2-0. Both teams were defending excellently. Japanese defenders moved together all the time, which caused the USA forward line to commit ten offside offences - it kept the assistant referees busy. The USA showed their strength in defence allowing only three shots in the first half and not even one shot in the second half. It was a pleasure to referee such a beautiful football match.

Every experience I make in England and abroad is so precious to me. I believe that referees should make an effort to improve day by day. As the speed and level goes up in modern football, all I can do is to keep fit and make good decisions for the good of the game. I cannot forget the moment last November, when I debuted in England. One of the away lady supporters seriously asked me after the match, "Ref, why do you referee even if you are abused by the players, coaches and spectators?" I replied, "Because I love refereeing!"

Una Hong from Korea is a Level 4 and FIFA Women's Referee



# The Referees' Association 88<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Perfect preparation promotes positive performance".

BY ARTHUR SMITH



The Referees' Association's 88 Annual Conference held over the weekend of 9-10 of June 2006 in Warwick was a memorable occasion for all members present.

Themed around the World Cup, coupled with an excellent weekend of weather, the members, wives and partners went away having enjoyed the excellent content of the weekend. The Boards of the RA and the RAE managed to give members a varied and engaging weekend with lots to help develop practical skills of referees of all levels. The two boards certainly matched their achievements of last year in focusing on practical refereeing and attracting younger members. Indeed, it was noticeable that again, the numbers of younger referees present was certainly encouragingly high.

Another big plus was the PR value of having Sky TV present on Friday and Saturday highlighted by a 20-minute interview with David Elleray.

Sky TV also interviewed Keith Hackett, General Manager of the PGMOL and Mike Riley, Select Group Referee, and they also took the opportunity to film part of the Conference, covering members in attendance.

The formal business part of the weekend was the RAE AGM held on the Friday afternoon.

On Friday evening attendees were invited to a social reception at which presentations were made of the RAE Long & Meritorious Service awards (LMSAs). The first speaker on Saturday was Keith Hackett, Head of PGMOL, a strong supporter of the RA, who raised spirits by stating that he believed that every member of PGMOL should be a member of the RA – "This is where it starts and where it ends (...) The RA is very good at holding the hands of young referees (...) The FA needs people to become referees, and this is where the RA comes in". He then cemented this by presenting the RA with a donation of £10,000 to RA General Secretary Arthur Smith.

The World Cup was always going to impact on Saturday's proceedings, especially as England were playing Paraguay, but David Elleray and the Boards cleverly built the day's programme around the World Cup, starting with goodwill messages from Graham Poll and his assistants.



As last year, the meeting got off to an exceptional start with Mike Riley talking about 'Preparing for World Cup Finals' and I am sure that everyone, at whatever level, will have found this both absorbing and informative. He emphasised that this year FIFA were accentuating three aspects of refereeing i.e. the team, fitness and the responsibility of the referee for the fitness of his assistants.

His final quotation summarised his positive attitude – "Perfect preparation promotes positive performance", which he preferred to "Perfect preparation prevents poor performance". David Elleray gave an intriguing insight into 'The Assessment and Selection of Officials at World Cup Finals', and it came as a surprise to many that the process was carried out over a two year period with likely contenders being assessed over a dozen or so international or major club games. What we were not surprised at was the role played by luck and politics. Mark Warren, who recalls that nothing could have prepared him for the ultimate game, described the experience of lining in the 1998 World Cup Final itself.

In the afternoon, attendees watched the England vs. Paraguay match with half-time and full-time analyses by a panel of experts: Mark Warren, Brendan Batson, ex-PFA official, Mike Riley and chaired by David Elleray.

Brendan Batson gave some very interesting insights into players' expectations of, and reactions to, referee's decisions. The afternoon session ended with two short formal presentations.

Then came Sian Massey, a young and high-flying woman referee, whose entertaining talk on, 'Help me be England's Referee for the World Cup 2014', was very warmly received by her audience. Neale Barry, FA Head of Senior Referee Development, covering the 'Law Changes for Season 2006-7', delivered the final presentation. These were described as the "easiest set of changes for years and involve nothing to affect on-field refereeing".

The presentations of the prestigious RAE Life Memberships were again the centrepiece of the Post-Conference Dinner/Dance. The highest award the RAE can bestow was given to Frank Bastin (East Devon), John Chalmers (Bridgwater), Peter Hodgson (Heavy Woollen), Jim Simms (Leicester) and Alan Tate (Slough), who sadly was not present but he will be presented with the award locally in the near future. A feature introduced last year of honouring colleagues who had officiated in England's most prestigious matches in 2005-2006, was continued this year. Officials for The FA Cup, Carling Cup, FA Trophy, FA Vase Finals etc. were presented with suitable mementoes. Presentations were also made to officials from Northern Ireland. For the first time 50-year membership awards were made to two of our overseas members, Alan Boniface and Leslie Coffman from New Zealand who were delighted to be so honoured.

"We eagerly await next year's Conference."

The new structure of the Conference weekend was again a success with the high level of enjoyment, interest and education. One senior county referee even quipped, "I'm not bored anymore!" The number of young referees attending was again noticeably high, and praise must go to those County FAs making special efforts to get their younger members to attend. The attitude of 'Give the Board a chance' has certainly borne fruit, at least as far as the Conference is concerned.

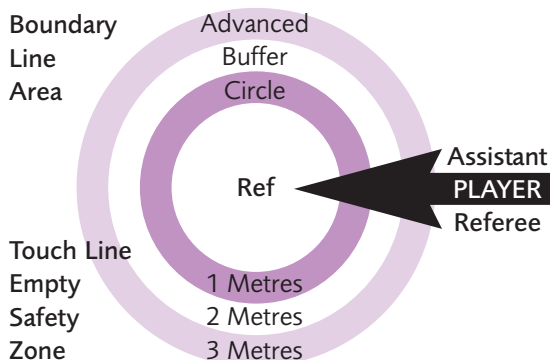
We eagerly await next year's Conference, which will again be held in Warwick on 8 and 9 June 2007, and we look forward to meeting you all again and those who will be coming for the first time.

**Arthur Smith, General Secretary National Referees' Association, previously was a referee on the Football League before he retired in 1994. He was Linesman at the 1989 The FA Cup Final. Before taking the post as General Secretary in 1992, Arthur was an Engineer in Bromsgrove. [arthur@footballreferee.org](mailto:arthur@footballreferee.org)**

# THE ABC OF CONFLICT

The Advanced Buffer Circle BY JULIAN CAROSI

The aim of this article is to encourage referees to think positively about the best place to stand when disciplining players. Whilst it is all well and good focusing on a perpetrator during a period of admonishment, a referee should also keep a wary eye on the remainder of the players. It very often happens that when a referee is dealing with a player, he sometimes ignores everything else. The 'ABC of Conflict' method provides some thoughts on how the referee can better position himself, so as to maximise his observation and increase his safety, without having to lessen the control and view of all the players, not just the perpetrator. Therefore, the next time that you (the referee) need to administer a public warning (or issue a yellow/red card), try to consider whether you would be better off standing in a different position, rather than remaining static where you are.



1. As soon as conflict materialises, and you need to speak to a player, think about the best position to manipulate the perpetrator, so that he is standing in front of you. Your position should be such that it allows you to view all or most of the other players over the perpetrator's shoulder. In other words, do not just stand in the centre circle amongst the other players, most of whom you will not be able to see as you are dealing with the perpetrator.

2. In addition to this, the perpetrator should be positioned between you and the nearest active Assistant Referee. This maximises the officiating team's visibility and control of the conflict area. It also allows the Assistant Referee to make a note of the perpetrator's number on the back of his shirt.

3. Try and move into a position where you have your back to one of the boundary lines surrounding the field of play. This will give you a panoramic view of the remaining players whilst you are dealing with the perpetrator. If a boundary line is too far away, move to a position where you have your back to an area of the field of play that has the least number of players in. This way you can at least keep an eye on most of the other players. The technical area is also something else that you will need to keep an eye on! Therefore, never place your back towards a nearby technical area when you are dealing with a player.

4. Aim to have an empty safety zone behind you. There are two reasons for this:

- You do not have to worry about being attacked or abused unseen from behind
- You have an empty 'back-off' retreat zone should things get out of hand, and you need to take a few steps backwards.

5. When you have reached your position, make sure that you leave a protection zone between yourself and the perpetrator. This zone is commonly known as your 'personal space' and should not be invaded by players. It should be of sufficient distance that makes it impossible for a punch to be thrown. In other words, it should be at least an arm's distance. If you allow a player to invade this space, you are jeopardising your own safety and the intimidation stakes will quickly rise!

**Inner Ref circle:** Now that you have gained your optimal position, think of the 'ABC of Conflict' as you, the

referee, standing in the centre, surrounded by three wide circular rings, like sugary doughnuts with holes in. Each doughnut is progressively wider than the other, and they are all surrounding the referee (see diagram).

**One-metre circle:** The referee stands in the middle and is surrounded by a one-metre-wide ring, or doughnut. This is the buffer zone, the no-go area and should be at least an arm's length away from the perpetrator.

**Two-metre buffer circle:** Surrounding circle one, there is a two-metre-wide ring. This is the area where the perpetrator should be positioned. The perpetrator must not enter the inner buffer zone (circle one), as this could be seen as invading the referee's personal space, but he or she must be near enough to be dealt with quietly and politely, without the referee having to shout.

**Three-metre advanced circle:** Surrounding the two inner rings (one and two), is a further three-metre-wide ring. This is the advanced exclusion zone that applies to all the other players. In other words, when you prepare to caution or send-off a player, shoo away any others who want to get involved – and this includes the captain!

To summarise: The 'ABC of Conflict' is a simple visual concept, which you can refer to, when considering the best place to position yourself, when dealing with major conflict on the field of play. When you need to deliver a public warning, or to issue a card, do not forget that your duties and responsibilities extend to all the other players, and not just the one you happened to be dealing with. You cannot do this by turning your back on them - unless you have eyes in the back of your head!

Note: The 'ABC of Conflict' refers to referee positioning when dealing with the more serious cases of indiscipline. There are many other lesser levels of referee control and subsequent positioning such as delivering a quiet word, where positioning is dependant on other factors such as the continuation of play, or the location of a free-kick.



JARNAIL SINGH

Julian Carosi is an FA Referees' Instructor and Assessor from the county of Wiltshire. He was also the Editor of the recent Referees' Association magazine, 'Refereeing Today'. He is a member of the Melksham Referees' Society.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Concerning Child Protection and CRB

BY IAN BLANCHARD

I wish I had a pound for every question I am asked concerning CRB checks and child protection!

I am totally supportive of educating and raising awareness when it comes to child protection. You might ask, "Why"? Well, I spent eleven years as a Police Officer working in child protection. I have to tell you, this involved some horrific crimes against young people, some of which involved adults in football. It happens in all walks of life, for the majority of the time behind closed doors, sometimes linked to football activities. Therefore, we have to ensure that all young people involved in this fantastic game of ours are safe to enjoy themselves playing football. Our referees are an integral, important part of this game as is to make sure that our referee workforce is protected.

So what are the answers to the questions that referees have been asking? Here are the key ones.

### **Q1. I never come into contact with children - I only ref in adult football?**

I still referee on a Sunday morning and as an active referee I know that there are masses of U18s who play in open-age football. In fact one team in the league in which I officiate has a majority of players under 18. Children in the eyes of the law are U18. There are often children present at football matches who might run the line for you, watch their mum or dad playing or in fact are young officials. Remember some 60 per cent of our new referees are aged under 18. There are significant numbers of young people linked to the adult game.

### **Q2. So why do I need to do this CRB and child protection thing?**

As referees we have a number of responsibilities. We carry out pitch inspections, ensure players' equipment is safe, manage risk in relation to matches and since we come into contact with U18s across football, we also need to ensure that everyone, including ourselves are protected too.

Raising awareness of child protection issues across football is a key objective for everyone. Government guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' states, 'All agencies and organisations whose staff and volunteers work closely with children should have policies and procedures in place to deter those who are unsuitable to work with children. This should have formal links in respect of the CRB and the Protection of Children Act List as well as rigorous recruitment processes.' The FA's legal advice highlighted that failure to carry out CRB checks would be a breach of the organisation's duty of care.

To date the process of CRB checking has identified people in football who are banned from working with children, but until their CRB check arrived, they had been caring for and working with children in football. This has included people in roles as match officials.

### **Q3. I am a pillar of society - why can I not be exempt from CRB checks?**

It is best practice to complete a CRB check. It is obvious from information in the media that child abuse has no boundaries. Operation Ore, the police investigation into child abuse on the Internet, identified offenders from all walks of life including social work, education and football.

A large number of the offenders I dealt with as a police officer were professionals in positions of power. Currently, 14 per cent of cases handled by The FA are concerned with referees - these include people who seemingly, to all around them, were pillars of society. Some of them have committed the most serious offences against children, which draw a custodial sentence. In my mind this more than justifies The FA's decision that people under the jurisdiction of football, including referees, should complete a check.

"We have to ensure that all young people involved in this fantastic game of ours are safe to enjoy themselves playing football"



**Q4. I am concerned; I have an old conviction for assault on a 14 year-old boy from when I was a teenager. I am in my 40s now. Where do I stand?**

Old offences, where there has not been any pattern of re-offending, are unlikely to prevent you from refereeing. Likewise a one-off conviction of drink driving committed some years ago will not affect our decision that you are suitable to referee. The FA makes sensible, fair and consistent recruitment decisions, based on a clear set of protocols. The processes, and people moving through it, are treated with the utmost confidentiality and The FA CRB Unit has been praised by the CRB nationally for its strict adherence to the code of practice.

The whole idea of CRB is to ensure that people who have a history of conviction data, which indicates that they pose a risk to children, are prevented from having access to children in football.

If you have a concern about what may show on your own check and want to discuss the process, then please call the FA Child Protection and CRB enquiry line. Calls can be made anonymously, if required.



## "It is a requirement that referees complete child protection training and a CRB check"

### **Q5. I have a check already. Why do I need to do another through The FA?**

What happens when you request a bank loan? The lender will do a credit check to ensure you are able to pay the loan back. This happens no matter how many times you apply for a bank loan. CRB is no different. Previous checks become dated as soon as they are carried out, they are a snapshot in time.

Another serious consideration concerns the existence, in some cases, of additional information. If someone is currently under investigation by the police when a CRB check is requested, the disclosure certificate may be clear of conviction information. A copy of the clear certificate will be returned to both the individual and registered body (in our case The FA). However, as the individual is under investigation, the police will provide additional information giving details of the concerns to The FA and not to the individual. The additional information and ongoing collaboration with the police, then guides the recruitment decision. When someone has a check completed by another registered body, The FA does not have access to this additional information, therefore portability – or the concept of transferring checks from one body to another - is seriously flawed and leaves children at risk.

Our approach is the same as other sporting bodies carrying out CRB checks.

### **Q6. What happens at registration time?**

At the point of registration you will receive from your County FA a new style registration form. It is pre-populated with your name and address and all you have to do is read each section and tick the appropriate boxes. Details of whether you have completed the child protection training or your CRB check will be recorded on The FA's database. For those referees who have engaged in the process the renewal dates will be displayed in the child protection training and CRB section on the front of the form.

If you have not completed either your training or your check, use this as a reminder; you still have an opportunity to do so.

### **Q7. A local league has asked me to show my certificate to re-register; I thought it was a confidential process?**

Please note - at no point should you be asked to show your disclosure certificate. The information on your certificate is private to you and you do not need to show it. Indeed, it is unlawful for someone to ask to see your disclosure.

The FA will have made an informed decision on your application and therefore on your recruitment or retention as a referee. The recruitment decision whether you are accepted or not, will be recorded on The FA's database. The club, league and county can refer to that decision, for the information they need regarding re-registration.

### **Q8. I live abroad most of the time, where do I stand?**

It is a requirement that referees complete child protection training and a CRB check. In order to complete the training, referees abroad can either do the workshop if it is accessible to them, or the guide. With respect to the CRB check, this can only be enabled if you have a UK-based contact address.

Referees living abroad will be managed on a case-by-case basis. If this applies to you, please get in touch so that we can agree a way forward.

### **Q9. So what about the abuse referees are subjected to?**

Abusive behaviour of any nature is not acceptable in football. Likewise it is not acceptable to be intimidated by players and spectators.



Can you imagine how a young person feels who is subjected to a torrent of abuse during a game, or being bullied and abused in some way? It is important, then, that we ensure all adults involved in positions of responsibility in football, know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. This includes supporting young officials, as well as knowing the best practice guidelines to protect ourselves when working with youngsters to avoid situations that could be misinterpreted.

Child protection is part of the process of addressing the unacceptable behaviour across the game.

**Q10. You will be stuck when you have not got enough refs at the end of this process, as people do not want to do it!**

It is encouraging that an excess of 20,000 officials have completed their child protection training and CRB checks.

As a child protection tutor I have delivered many workshops, which have been attended by a wide range of people involved in refereeing, including some sceptics. By the end of the workshop many have said, "I have learnt so much"; "this has really opened my eyes". The Independent Football Commission has publicly applauded The FA child protection education programme, which is nearing 150,000 people across football.

Participation in child protection training and CRB checking is a relatively straightforward exercise and a small price to pay in order to ensure the protection of children involved in this great game of ours.

Essentially the more aware people there are across football, then the more eyes and ears there are creating a safer environment for everyone involved in football, especially children, who are the most vulnerable.

We need every referee to support our quest to ensure all referees have completed their training and CRB checks.

If you need further help or guidance please contact your County Football Association or the Referees' Department at the [TheFA.com](http://TheFA.com).

Thank you so much for your assistance in protecting children and yourselves in football.

**If you need further help or guidance please contact your local County FA or any of the below mentioned:**

The Referees' Department at 020 7745 4651

The FA's Child Protection Team at 020 7745 4649

The Media Group at 0800 085 0506

Ian Blanchard is Head of National Referee Development at The FA. Previously he was a National List and Premiership Assistant Referee for ten years. He started working for The FA in 2001 as a regional manager and was promoted to his new post in September 2005. He has visited four continents delivering referee training to a wide range of referees and officials.

Your contribution to this programme is welcome. Please feel free to forward ideas on this subject to: [Ian.Blanchard@TheFA.com](mailto:Ian.Blanchard@TheFA.com)



# Fitness Pre-season Training

BY STEVE SWALLOW

It is that time of year again when we should be starting to think about planning for next season. In particular, you should be thinking about starting your pre-season training. Those of you operating at Contributory League level and above, who have either already completed a fitness test or have a fitness test coming up, I am sure have been training for a number of weeks!

Therefore, what I hope to do is supply you with some ideas of where to base your pre-season fitness training. Although it is important to have a rest period after a long, hard season, it is easy to go from doing absolutely nothing to doing too much, too soon. Best Practice would be to maintain a baseline level of fitness throughout the summer in order to prevent injuries occurring because of too much expectation being placed upon the body at an early stage. In fact, it is a good idea to incorporate a 'Pre-pre-season' plan into your training programme. This should consist of short, but high intensity sessions two to three times a week to prepare the body for full training.

It is extremely important that any training that you do is specific to the activity which you are training for. I am sure we have all been guilty of our training programmes consisting of running for around 20-40 minutes; two/three times a week. Although this does serve a purpose in building stamina or 'aerobic' fitness, it is important that we at least try and encompass different elements into our training. Any fitness programme needs to contain 'The four S's.'

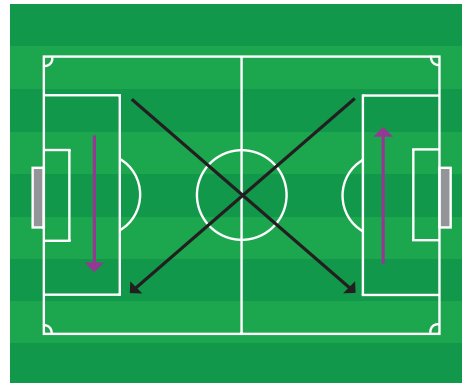
- Stamina or Cardiovascular Endurance
- Strength/Muscular Endurance
- Suppleness or Flexibility
- Speed.

With this in mind, it is important that you identify and understand your fitness objectives and design a training routine accordingly. Below are examples of Stamina and Speed Training Sessions.

## Aerobic Training Session – 'The Diagonal'

### Key

- 3/4 Pace Run
- - - - - → Jog (Recovery)

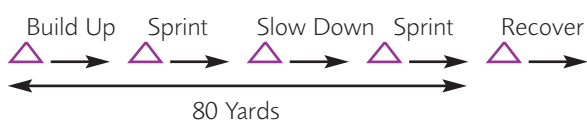


### Procedure

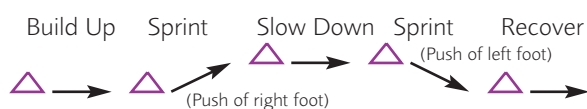
- Complete circuit five times and rest for two minutes. Then complete circuit four times and rest for one minute and 40 seconds, three times and rest for one minute, twice and rest for 30 seconds, and finally, one more time
- If you are finding the circuits too easy, increase the number of repetitions and decrease recovery time
- If it is too difficult, decrease repetitions and increase recovery time
- Can be done alone or ideally in a group of four with one participant starting on each corner of the penalty area.



### Speed Session – Maximal Sprint



### Variation



### Procedure

- Five cones spaced out 20 yards apart
- Sprints are maximal, aimed at improving ability to change pace and enhance ability to reach maximum speed

- Recovery period needs to be at least five times the duration of the drill
- Simple variation is to push off at 45° angle when each sprint is performed.

In conclusion, while some training is better than none, it is important that you at least try and make your training specific to the activity of refereeing. If you are able to do this, your ability to make credible decisions, from good positions will almost certainly increase – no matter what level you officiate at. Remember, "Be fit to referee, do not referee to get fit!"

**Steve Swallow is Regional Referees' Manager North West. Previously he was the Referee's Development Officer with Cheshire FA. He joined The FA in April 2006 and has taken over responsibility for the key-fitness initiative. He was recently promoted Level 4 Referee. [Steve.Swallow@TheFA.com](mailto:Steve.Swallow@TheFA.com)**



# Tactical Awareness TO AID MATCH CONTROL

BY RAY OLIVIER

The understanding of varied tactics by teams and adjusting to them can assist referees in achieving greater match control. Obviously, the level of football you are officiating at will determine how much you will need to understand and be aware of team tactics in order to adjust and enhance overall match control.

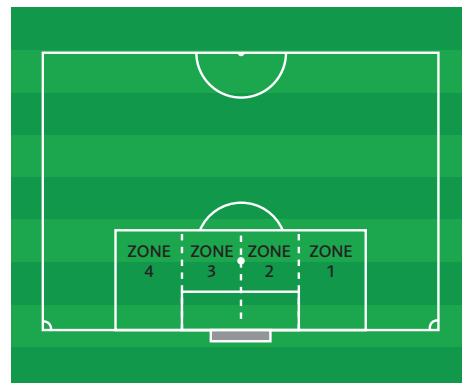
Team formations can be altered during a game, but this requires adaptations of the players to fit in to the new system. This can be due to a team wishing to defend or attack more, or even due to the loss of a player. Some formations also lend themselves to dynamically changing as players move up and down the field.

Team formations are used in both professional and amateur football matches. However, in amateur matches these tactics are sometimes adhered to less strictly such as the lesser severity of the occasion. Skill and discipline on behalf of the players is also needed to effectively carry out a given formation in professional football. With this in mind, we as referees can aid our match control by adjusting our control path to suit the tactics employed by the teams.

## Man-to-man or zonal marking

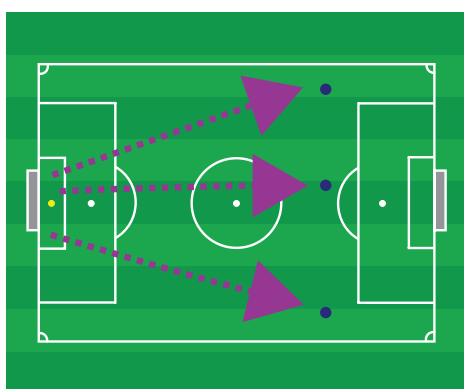
This type of tactic will occur mostly in the final third of play or midfield areas. Each system has a varied effect on the type of offences that can occur. There will be a greater likelihood of holding offences by players with the possibility of retaliatory actions. Defenders will have responsibility of marking a player or players within a zone. This can be observed from attacking free-kicks near the penalty area and corner-kicks where it is most likely to have the most number of players in such a condensed space. This is most noticeable when players are not even looking at the player taking the free-kick or corner-kick and are just concentrating on marking their player and there is a considerable amount of 'jostling' for position.

As referees, we need to achieve a position to maximise views to observe such possibilities. We need to quickly move to the position of the offence to minimise reactions of offended players. We also need to be vigilant in identifying these actions before the kick is taken and to warn the players of their conduct.



## Direct-Play

Known as 'Route One Football', where the objective is to change defence into attack as quickly as possible to put pressure on opponents. The most noticeable tactic is the quick release of the ball by the defending goalkeeper immediately as the ball is caught from an attacking free-kick or corner-kick and is kicked up-field in order to beat the defence. This tactic is also used when the losing team want to get the ball into the attacking area as quickly as possible when normal playing time is running out. As referees, we require quick reaction, good anticipation and sprint ability in order to ensure a clear view is achieved for any potential foul challenges.



### Wing-Play

This is play directed to team-mates on either touchline who try to beat defenders and cross the ball into the penalty area. Referees need to be aware of possible frustrations by the defenders who may be constantly being beaten and require the referee to be constantly mobile with peripheral views to anticipate the next phase of play.

### Pace-Play

This tactic is where players who use their pace to either turn defenders or chase the ball played in behind the defence. Holding and shirt pulling offences are likely to occur with a possible risk of denial of obvious goal/goal scoring opportunity situations arising. Referees need to have good speed and agility to accelerate into a position to maximise view of such possibilities.

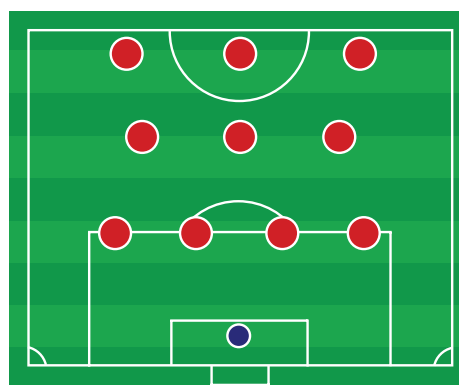
### Aerial-Play

Again, also known as "Route One Football" where the objective is to target tall players for team-mates running off the ball to create attacking opportunities. High balls are also played into the penalty areas from either set play or open play where players use their aerial strength to create goal scoring opportunities. Tactics by defending players include 'blocking', where they deliberately put a defender in the running path of the

attacker to prevent them challenging for the ball and deliberate holding. Ideally, referees require a 'side-on' view to judge for possible offences/repercussions in order to take appropriate action.

### 4-4-2 Formation

4-4-2 is the most common formation in football in this country. The midfield players give support to both defence and attack. Two central midfielders, one will normally be expected to get forward as often as possible to support the strikers. The other will play a 'holding role' and give extra protection to the defence. As referees we need to be aware that play can be quite spread across the field of play and requires a reading of the pattern of play and good anticipation when teams are attacking. The referees' 'patrol' will be determined by the skill level of the players who will generally switch play from left to right and right to left in order to penetrate the opposition. A more varied patrol path rather than sticking to a specific diagonal will help you detect any offences occurring. Good observational skills are required by the referee to identify changes in play.

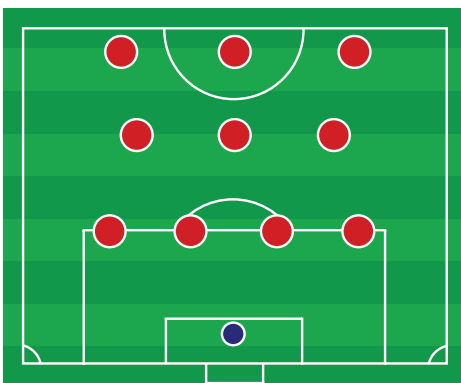




### 4-3-3 Formation

This is an attacking line-up with three midfielders who normally play close together to give protection to the defence. Three strikers will split across the pitch to provide width to the attack. Very few teams start with this formation, but may be implemented if a team needs a 'late' goal. The three forwards split across the field to spread the attack and are expected to 'tackle back'. The tactic is to get the ball to attacking players more quickly and as referees positioning for quick breaks by attacking players. Good speed and mobility by the referee will enable you to get into good viewing positions to monitor any potential challenges.

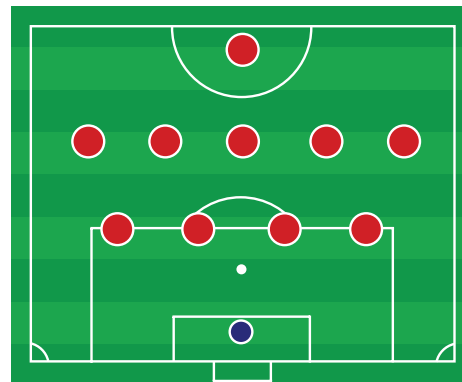
The speed of the game will increase in intensity and the defending team may also counterattack with a quick break switching play from one end of the field to the other. The ability to read the game, good mobility and to be able to anticipate where you are likely to be needed next will put you in a good position to make credible decisions.



### 4-5-1 Formation

This system is often used by teams facing a difficult away match or who are defending a lead in a two-leg cup tie to pack midfield and play with a lone striker. For this system to work properly the striker has to be good

at maintaining possession allowing midfield players to get forward and offer support. This system stifles creative attacking play and can include spoiling tactics when defending but can also lead to quick counter attacks. Referees need to be aware that the majority of play will be in the middle third of the field and the play will be wide going forward. There is potential for more physical challenges and a frustration by an attacking team to actually penetrate this system. There could be a possibility of persistent infringement by players using this formation and we need to be in a good position to judge challenges.



### Substitutions

As referees we need to be aware when substitutes are used whether it is for tactical reasons or for injuries. This may alter the way a team has been playing. For example, a tall forward is replaced by a colleague whose strength is pace and the team tactics change to suit the oncoming player. We also need to be aware that the opposition may also make a substitutions to nullify possible threat or change tactics. Certainly as you progress in the game, we need to identify what possible replacements can take place. When a substitution is taking place do you really take into consideration who has left the field of play and who is the player being replaced by? We need to have an awareness of players' strengths and their attributes in

order to adapt to the change in play and consider our positioning which may need to be adjusted.

### Set-Play Situations

During set-play situations for free-kicks and corner-kicks there are normally only two or possibly three players who will take them. What do you notice about the kicker? Is the player a left or right-footed player? Does the player taking the free-kick have the ability to strike for goal? A left-footed player taking a corner-kick from the 'right wing' position would suggest that the ball will be an in-swinging ball and probably to the near post? Referees should note the players' tactics at the taking of these set-play situations in order to be pro-active and to have mobility to maximise views of any possible offences.

### Final 15 Minutes

The final 15 minutes of any game are also an important consideration. Awareness of the score at this stage may lead to tactical changes; players will be tiring, chasing the game or protecting a lead. Referees need to be aware of possible changes and react accordingly. We need to adjust our profile, remain alert and keep our concentration.

In conclusion, the importance of understanding which tactics are being played and when they may change will lead to better match control. These are varied and can alter at anytime during a game. An understanding of defensive and attacking formations used by each team can assist the Think Awareness and Think Reaction.

Special thanks go to Barry Firmin, PGMOL Assessor, for his contribution to this article.

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# Law Amendments 2006-2007

## AND UPDATES BY NEALE BARRY

During 2005 tests were carried out by FIFA partner Adidas and the German company Cairos AG at the FIFA U17 tournament in Peru, and at a testing facility in the German town of Nuremberg on the 'Smart Ball' goal-line technology system. Members of the International Football Association Board reported back to FIFA on their conclusions after witnessing the tests, which were that the system had not operated to the standard required in terms of accuracy of decision and immediate direct communication to the referee. However, in March 2006 at the International Football Association Board meeting in Lucerne, Adidas and Cairos AG sought permission to undertake further research on the system and when ready ask the International Football Association Board sub-committee to witness further tests. This was granted and those tests are due to take place later this year, with a view to running a full field test during a FIFA tournament in 2007.

At the meeting in Lucerne the Italian Football Association sought permission to test a digital camera system which would assist the referee with goal-line decisions. The International Football Association Board granted permission for these tests to be undertaken and when they were ready, to ask members of the sub-committee to witness the results so that a report could be submitted to next year's meeting, which is being held in Manchester.

The International Football Association Board also made amendments to the Laws of Association Football, which are outlined below:

### **Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

The words 'comprises the following separate items:' were added. This ensures that the basic equipment must consist of individual garments, and therefore a player's jersey and shorts may not be joined together in any way. This outlaws the all-in-one body suit used by the Cameroon national team.

### **Law 10 – The Method of Scoring**

The words 'or home-and-away tie' have been added under Competition Rules to bring into line the accepted practice of this type of two-legged match to determine the winning team.

### **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct (Cautionable Offences)**

Bullet point five has had the words 'or throws in' added to bring this into line with last season's amendment, whereby an opposition player must be at least two metres from a player taking a throw in.

FIFA also wanted to make the distinction between a player, substitute or substituted player, in terms of what offences each one could be cautioned for.

Whereas a player can be cautioned for seven offences, it was decided that the substitute or substituted player could only be cautioned for three offences. These are:

1. is guilty of unsporting behaviour
2. shows dissent by word or action
3. delays the restart of play.

If either a substitute or a substituted player enter or re-enter the field of play without permission they will be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

### **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct (Sending-Off Offences)**

The words 'substitute or substituted player' have been added as they can be dismissed for committing any of the seven sending-off offences.

### **Law 14 – The Penalty-Kick (Infringements/Sanctions)**

The words 'from the place where the infringement occurred' were added as previously the Law stated that 'if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free-kick to



the defending team' but did not indicate where from. The words 'infringes the Laws of the Game' are added to be consistent with other infringements. In simple terms, rather than specify the individual infringements like 'players entering the penalty area' or 'the ball rebounding from the goalkeeper, crossbar etc', any infringement will result in the award of an indirect free kick.

#### Law 17 – The Corner-Kick

The words 'the corner arc' have been added to indicate that opponents must remain 9.15 metres (ten yards) from the corner arc until the ball is in play, rather than the previous text, which said 'from the ball until it is in play'. This amendment is consistent with IFAB Decision 6 in Law 1 (The Field of Play)

Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials (Delaying the restart of play)

A new bullet point has been added under 'Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by tactics such as:

- provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play.

This addition is designed to focus the referee's attention on players who provoke confrontations by trying to snatch the ball from an opponent, or by deliberately trying to deflect or try to take control of the ball after the referee has given a decision against them.

I believe that in England we deal with these types of offences firmly, especially those that lead to a number of players becoming involved in melees or mass confrontations. However, FIFA believe that we need to be ever more vigilant in this area, and it is part of the specific instructions given to the referees during the World Cup.

**Neale Barry is Head of Senior Referee Development at The FA. Until last season he was refereeing on the Premier League and represented his country on 26 occasions. He is an experienced referee instructor who now heads up the semi-professional and PGMO refereeing section at The FA.**  
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# Futsal UPDATE 2006

BY ROGER VAUGHAN

With the World Cup still in our memories the skill and technical ability of the teams from South America was there for all to see. Many of the players from South America developed this ability by playing Futsal and the game is now developing at a fast pace in England.

With Spain the current World Champions following the tournament in Chinese Taipei in December 2004, the game is growing rapidly in the rest of Europe as well. The English National Futsal team continue to develop but are yet to taste success on the International Stage, although this will not be too long a wait.

Once again a number of Regional Leagues are operating to find the finalists for the Third National Finals at the English Institute for Sport Arena in Sheffield in July. We are recruiting referees to officiate in these tournaments and have focused mainly on existing eleven-a-side officials to make the transfer across.

We have identified a National Group of Officials who will officiate in the Internationals to be held in England and have officiated in those held to date including the Four Nations Tournament held in Sheffield in May where England were joined by teams from Belarus, Cyprus and Belgium. Six English Officials took part as well as two timekeepers and two FIFA officials from Belgium. The performances of these officials were commendable and a FIFA Observer from Cyprus aided me in assessing their performances using the UEFA guidelines which will be used again at the National Finals.

Other Referees operating in leagues around the country will have the opportunity to be recommended by their league to officiate in the nationals and again if suitable to be considered for the National Group. In time it is hoped to recommend officials from the National Group to be considered for FIFA nominations, but this must coincide with regular appointments as a Futsal Referee in a suitable Regional/National League to be established in England.

At the other end of the spectrum a course for those with no previous refereeing experience is being developed and will be piloted in August with a view to providing for County Football Associations to deliver in autumn. Following this, referees will be able to register as Futsal Officials and develop their skills and career in this version of the game without having had previous experience in the eleven-a-side game.

Once again it will be another exciting year in the development of Futsal in England and the Referees Department will be heavily involved in supporting this development.

**Roger Vaughan, Regional Referees' Manager South West. He is currently operating as an official on the Panel System and as an Assistant Referee on the National List. He is responsible for overseeing the development of referees in small-sided football and Futsal. [Roger.Vaughan@TheFA.com](mailto:Roger.Vaughan@TheFA.com)**



# The Referee Academy PROGRAMME

BY IAN BLANCHARD

One of the most exciting programmes to originate from the partnership between The FA, the County Football Associations and professional clubs has been the formation of Referee Academies. From its roots in Liverpool in 2000 some two thirds of all counties have now got referee academies designed to allow inexperienced referees to work alongside more experienced officials in a safe learning environment.

Codes of conduct for players, spectators and match officials are in place, which ensure referees are able to referee in a safe environment. An important ingredient of any good academy structure is its mentors. They are experienced referees who offer on the spot help and guidance. The County Football Association benefits from having a group of officials who not only referee within the academy structure but also, as part of their development, services the grassroots game.

The proposed Referee Academy infrastructure is based upon the overall FA concept for its National Game Strategy. This is designed specifically to develop and support the needs of grassroots football with specific onus on officiating and the link between parks to Premier League football.

The success of the academy scheme is clear to see. I recall seeing a 17-year-old referee operating with two 16-year-old assistants in a Charlton FC academy game. The way in which the referee handled the game, managed situations and worked with his two assistants was exemplary. In general terms referees are better prepared, better skilled, better decision makers, have better attitudes and are technically better referees. Many referees have gone through the academy structure and are now refereeing at Contributory League level and above.

Alongside refereeing in the academy is the buy-in by referees to attend regular training and education sessions. This is usually led by an experienced FA referee instructor and covers areas such as diet, fitness, decision making, and managing situations. The balance

between education and developing referee skills is essential to achieving success.

The Referees Department at The FA is keen to develop and enhance a clearly defined succession plan for our referees, which identifies a pathway from starting in grassroots football to the Premiership. Only a small number make the grade but the academy structure is a positive scheme which provides a good starting point for new referees.

If you require further information on academies or how you get into refereeing, contact your local County Football Association or go to [TheFA.com](http://TheFA.com).





# West Devon Referees' Association

## 1906-2006

BY PHILIP HART

On Saturday 11 March 2006 in the New Continental Hotel, Plymouth, the West Devon Referees' Association (WDRA) held its Centenary Dinner in the presence of Patrick Nicholson, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Ray Lewis, Chairman of The Football Association Referees' Committee, Arthur Smith, General Secretary of the Referees' Association, David Tall, Associate Director of Plymouth Argyle FC and Tom Miller JP, President of Devon and West Devon Referees' Association.

The dinner was attended by about 100 people and included Bernard Leach, the Chairman of the Wrigleys Devon Junior Minor League, which is one of the largest leagues for youth football in the country, and which celebrated its own centenary on Saturday 18 September 2004.

Judging from the representative feedback, the occasion was a great success and the WDRA Chairman, John Mitchelmore, was delighted with the numbers in attendance. He said he felt very privileged to hold the position of chairman in the Association's centenary year.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of an award to Reg Norsworthy, Life Vice President, to recognise and commemorate his 50 years of membership of the RA. The presentation was made to Reg by Arthur Smith, General Secretary of the Referees' Association.

### **A Brief History of the West Devon Referees' Association**

The Devon branch of the RA was formed in Plymouth in 1906 and for at least 20 years was the only branch in Devon. In 1937 the county decided that the branch should be re-named and that the other branches in the county should be known by areas, i.e. North, South, East, West and North East. Hence our own branch became known as The West Devon RA and on this centenary we can look back with pride at its achievements over those years.

The branch has staged conferences on three occasions: 1936, 1965 and 1997. In 1936 the Western Division RA was born and its first Vice-President was the chairman of West Devon RA at that time, the Late Freddie Reeve. Each of the conferences was held in Plymouth.

The branch also played a large part in 1975 when the conference was held in Torquay.

During the seventies, the branch was instrumental in at least two significant decisions taken by The Football Association. On the first occasion it took exception to the large number of assaults taking place on referees, an intervention which led directly to The FA Memorandum on the subject. The second representation resulted in The FA removing the restriction on referees who wore glasses not being permitted class-one status. This again was the direct result of information put through the RA channels by this branch.

Life membership has been awarded to three members by the national body: F. W. Reeve 1950, A. E. Jury 1971 and R. G. Jewell 1986.

The longest serving member of the branch is life Vice President Reg Norsworthy who is in his 50th year of membership. Reg was in receipt of the county meritorious award in 1977 and was awarded the National long-serving and meritorious award in 1984. Reg is still in regular attendance at monthly branch meetings giving valuable advice when called upon and supporting all branch social events with his wife Ursula.

On the sporting side the branch were National runners-up in the National five-a-side soccer competition in 1977 and 1978. West Devon created a unique situation in 1982 when they won both the national five-a-side soccer and quiz competitions and are the only branch in the country ever to achieve this. The city of Plymouth recognised this achievement by inviting the branch to a civic reception at the Lord Mayor's Parlour.

In recent years the branch has had members entering the London Marathon and Plymouth Half-marathon and has held fundraising events with proceeds being donated to various charities such as the Special Care Baby Unit, Cavitron Fund, Mustard Tree Centre and the Plymouth Heartbeat Cardiac Support Group. Over the past couple of years the branch has been working towards and supporting the change from the national RA to the new Referees' Association of England (RAE).

The branch is currently well supported by members enjoying lively monthly meetings and has a good working relationship with the local area FA committee. After many years of hard work the County RA gained full representation on Devon County Football Association in 2003 with the first representative being current Devon Branch Secretary Neil Jones. The Branch also provides the County FA referee training officer namely Tom Sampson.

With the first lady and teenage members Leah Descombe, Sebastian Hart and James Taylor joining the committee, the chairman, John Mitchelmore, can look forward to a vibrant future for the branch as it moves into its next 100 years.

**Philip Hart is a County Level Referee. He is registered with Devon County FA and is a member of the West Devon Referees' Association. He is Press Liaison Officer for WDRA, Press Officer for the Wrigleys Devon Junior and Minor League (WDJM) and Chairman of the WDJM representative teams' committee.**





# METAL CUP HOOKS

BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Metal Cup Hooks are still prevalent in the game despite being deemed unsafe and the British Standards Institute (BSI) stating they must not be used on goals structures. The use of metal cup hooks on goals will be banned from the commencement of season 2007/08 and match officials will be instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks.

The metal cup hook can cause severe lacerations to various parts of the body if entrapped. Sadly, The FA has pictures of fingers either having been lost or stripped to the bone or lower limb injuries which are too gruesome to describe. This has either happened during or before a game when nets are being fitted to the goal or a player defends or attacks a corner, or goalkeeper makes a high save near the crossbar. You will no doubt be fully aware that players should not wear any jewellery which may harm themselves or another player, but still some accidents are reported for this type of accident. Furthermore, should a player be wearing a necklace, if caught on the hook, the strain to the neck can be extreme. These hooks will not give and thus the force on the body can be high.

## Advice given by The FA

Clubs, Leagues and County FAs have been advised that different types of net fixings should be used, such as plastic arrow heads, plastic grips (if used properly), tape, or in some cases Velcro. More modern goals have channels inserted at the rear of the post or crossbar to keep the net attached. The quick option where metal cup hooks are evident is for these to be removed using an angle grinder by an appropriately trained individual; several clubs or providers have performed this task already this season, ensuring the surface is then rubbed down to clear any sharp areas.

For this season, The FA requires everyone's help in ensuring common sense prevails and goals (posts and crossbars) are both appropriate and fit for use. If match officials can advise site owners of the impending ban of metal cup hooks it will undoubtedly help as we approach the following season.

**Steve Williams is National Facilities Manager and has been with The FA since 1998. Steve delivers The FA's National Facilities Strategy which seeks to identify and provide investment into facilities outside of the professional game, to give a better experience for all participants.**



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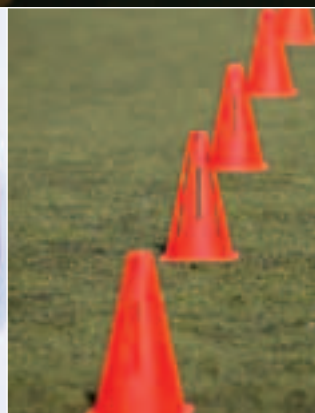
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# Refereeing

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