



Why Join Your Local Referees' Association?

Who are the Referees' Association?

The Referees' Association is a membership organisation with around 180 local associations – there is always one not far from you!

First founded in 1908 at the Crosby Hotel in Manchester with 100 people present and Charles Sutcliffe was elected as Chairman.

The Referees' Association has an increasingly important role to play. Howard Webb MBE has regularly and fervently supported The RA and emphasised the crucial role The RA played in helping him achieve the pinnacles of refereeing in 2010 - the Champions' League and World Cup finals. England's top officials' regularly pay tribute to The RA's contribution to their success and well-being, and they demonstrate their views by the support they give to RA events at all levels from local Association meetings through to The RA Conference.

Welfare & Representation

The RA Representation Team will support Members with:

- Incident reports/victim impact statements and attending hearings to support witnesses
- The process of reporting assaults
- Advice on strategy, evidence and tactics when a referee is facing a charge
- Drafting all the relevant documents
- Oral submissions
- Representation at FA hearings
- Appeals

Is membership of the Referees' Association compulsory for all referees?

Membership of the Referees' Association is not compulsory for all referees across the three countries involved with the Association. The only compulsory requirements for referees to oversee matches in England is that they have undertaken appropriate Football Association courses and are at the specific level which enables them to referee specific football matches. However, it is recommended that Referee's join their Local Referees Association so that they can be kept up to date with changes in the Laws of the Game and their interpretation.

Are there any benefits in being a member of the Referees' Association?

The following benefits are enjoyed by members of the Referees' Association:

- Insurance
- Benevolent fund
- Local societies
- Partnerships

Insurance

The Referees' Association operates a low-cost Personal Accident Insurance scheme for all of its members. This scheme provides cover for referees whilst travelling directly to and from a game and during a game, whilst on recognised referees' society business and also for the theft of refereeing equipment.

The insurance policy, however, only covers UK resident members of the association whilst refereeing in the UK.

Benevolent Fund

In 1914, as the Referees' union set up a benevolent fund for members of the union who were fighting in World War 1, the union encouraged members who remained at home to give-up 50% of their match fee.

The fund is now over a hundred years old and today the fund is active in helping members their hour of need, providing financial support to members and their families.

If you need urgent help, a simple application form can found in the member's area and we will submit to the trustees.



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Local Societies

The Referees' Association runs local societies whereby referees can meet together and discuss different aspects of the game learning from each other to improve their refereeing skills. This provides in house training over and above the training provided by the County Football Association system. This therefore continually helps to improve match day performance.

This ensures that a referee developing his skills at a lower level of the game will be able to meet and discuss a variety of issues with referees who operate at the highest level of the game. This will therefore improve the level of refereeing following the understanding of best practice methods.

Many of you may not be aware that there is an organisation in your local area that promotes and supports Referees within the Berks and Bucks counties, or your membership may have lapsed for whatever reason. We have local Referee Associations in the following areas and the news article can be found on the BBFA website.

These local Referee Associations will be able to give you support in your refereeing career, and in a lot of cases the leagues may have a member Referee who appoints to local leagues and games

We currently do not have a local RA in Slough and District, but if you would like to join the RA, please contact myself – steve.sherry@outlook.com, if there is sufficient interest we would love to restart RA meetings in that area also.

Partnerships

Partnerships are often formed between individuals, agencies or organisations with a shared interest to address specific issues. Our evidence reveals that our members young and old often require mental, emotional, financial, medical help, support and guidance. The Referees' Association champion the work of those agencies that provide this support in times of need. <https://www.the-ra.org/partners>

Best Regards
Steve Sherry
Chairman,
Berks and Bucks Referee' Association.



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