

THE FA NEW REFEREES COURSE

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The start of the new football season sees a fresh and pioneering new approach to the training of new referees, with it being primarily focussed on the practical training and learning of the skills required to referee a 9v9 or 11v11 football match.

The learning of the practical elements of refereeing re: their application and understanding are facilitated on the course by FA Referee Tutors, with the candidate taking a greater responsibility to learn the Laws of the Game through distance learning prior to, during and after the practical sessions of the course.

This new and enhanced approach to training new football referees will, without doubt, better prepare the candidate for the role as a referee.

The following ‘Essential Information & Frequently Asked Questions’ is a brief guide to how this will be delivered and how it affects you, the referee candidate.

Booking onto a Referee Course

- The minimum age to book onto and attend a referee course is 14. (There is no maximum age)
- You will be required to enter your FA Number (FAN) and password to book onto a course or create a FAN and password to book onto one if you don't have one already

Please Note: You will need to create a new FAN for your Son/Daughter if you already have a FAN yourself, because the FAN used will be accepted as the person booked on.

- All bookings are made through a secure online portal and confirmations of bookings are generated back to you after payment has been made.
- If your first choice course (venue/date) is **FULL**, please book onto another course.
- A pre-course pack will be posted out to you shortly after your booking has been made.
- Candidates **MUST** be prepared to study and learn the Laws of the Game before attending the new-style referee course, as the course will deal with practical refereeing skills rather than focus only on the Laws.

(This will then mean that candidates are better prepared not only on the course but also for when they start refereeing afterwards!)

How much does the course cost?

The current cost of the course is **£135.00**

What will I get for my money?

In addition to the services of FA Referee Tutors, the following is included in the price:

- A copy of the latest FIFA Laws of the Game booklet
- An interactive DVD on the Laws of the Game
- A pre-course study programme (**Unit 1**)
- FA Referee course materials
- FA Safeguarding Children training
- FA 'Respect' training
- FA registration fee for one season
- A referee whistle & Lanyard
- A Match Record Pad
- A set of red/yellow cards
- County FA will confirm which league you have been allocated onto to complete your 5 games prior to or at the successful completion of Unit 4
- A list of League contacts (upon completion of Unit 5)
- A certificate of qualification... following an initial five 11v11 or 9v9 games and the successful passing of a final examination on the FIFA Laws of the Game
- FA Referee badge
- The services of the Essex FA Referee Development Team & FA Referee Mentors

Will I need to undertake FA Safeguarding Children Training?

All referees have to undertake FA Safeguarding Children training before they will be able to register with The FA as a referee. You will complete this either before or during the course and certification will last for 3 years. The cost of this is included in the course fee.

Candidates under the age of 17 will be required to complete the Online FA Safeguarding Children training. Candidates aged 17+ will be required to attend the FA Safeguarding Children Workshop.

Will I need to undertake FA CRC (formerly known as a FA CRB) check?

All referees aged 16 years or over must undertake an FA CRC enhanced check. This is a simple on-line process, which can be completed prior to the commencement of the course. Certification last for 3 years. The cost of this is included in the course fee.

Candidates aged 16 and over only should bring three forms of identity documents on Day One, so that The FA CRB check can be undertaken. The recommended forms of ID are a current & valid passport, original birth certificate, and driving licence. Should a candidate not have all of these key documents then other forms of ID such as recent utility bills, exam certificates, bank statements etc. can also be used.

What should I wear to my course?

The Theory sessions will take place inside therefore casual clothing with suitable indoor footwear is recommended. For Practical sessions, candidates should ensure that suitable warm outdoor clothing is worn and we actively encourage candidates to bring along a change of clothing.

Please Note - Outdoor activity will take place regardless of the weather conditions.

How is the course structured?

Course Introduction – Unit 1

This is the start of your refereeing journey and through our interactive session, we will take you through the course expectations and start the process at looking at the role of the referee and the required Skills to control a game of football.

You will be given the learning resources and all necessary equipment (whistle, red/yellow cards etc.) You will also be given the learning resources and all necessary equipment (whistle, red/yellow cards etc.) at this session but you will need to bring a pen and pad to take notes

Practical Referee Training - Unit 2:

This is an all-day session so you will need to come prepared with food and drinks etc., plus come suitably dressed; **a change of footwear is essential as are shin-guards**. It will involve learning how to referee outside on the field of play whilst also looking at, Positioning & movement (set piece & open play), Managing game situations, Signals & Communication techniques along with Practical guidance on applying the Laws of the Game

Fouls and Misconduct Training - Unit 3:

This is an interactive session, which will take you through the theory knowledge of Law 12 and will include a 'Recognising Challenges' interactive session whilst we will also go through the Misconduct procedure.

Practical Referee Training and Evaluation - Unit 4:

This is a second all-day session, which will be mostly completed outside on the field of play. The second part of the day includes a practical evaluation where you will have another opportunity to referee part of a game among the group. The evaluation will include staged scenarios, which will provide you with opportunity to consolidate your learning from the previous sessions and receive immediate feedback.

Provided you attain the minimum standard required when evaluated, you will be sanctioned to operate as an FA Level 9 (trainee) referee.

Experience & Mentored Unit - Unit 5:

Having successfully graduated from the first four units of the training course, you will now officiate in a minimum of five (5) games of football within either 9v9 or 11v11 football. During these games, we aim to provide you with continued support using our FA Referee Mentors. A record of these games is compiled as evidence of your development. During this period, in addition to gaining practical experience, you will have time to learn and revise the Laws of the Game thoroughly before returning to complete the final unit of the course.

FA Examination & Call Back Unit - Unit 6:

This is an interactive session, which forms your final part of the course. It involves the successful completion of the FA Examination of the Laws of the Game (a multiple-choice examination of approx. 30 minutes duration), and an opportunity to review and discuss your learning experiences from your games thus far as a trainee referee. You will be rewarded with an FA Referee Certificate of Qualification along with an FA Referee badge when successful completion of the course is attained.

Unit 6 can only be attended and completed when a minimum of five (5) games as an FA Level 9 (trainee) referee have been refereed. The County FA will advise you of the dates of the Unit 6 sessions throughout the season and these can be planned in with your course tutor. It is possible to attend an alternative date either earlier or later if necessary but this final session must be completed within 4 calendar months of the date of the first Practical Training Session at the start of Unit 2.

What level of referee will I be at the end of the course?

Successful completion of all six units of The FA Referee Course sees the candidate move from FA **Level T - Trainee Referee** to **Level Y - Youth referee** (if aged 14 or 15) or **Level 7 – Junior referee** (if/when aged 16 or over).

Where will I referee my first FIVE games?

Appointment of these first five games is crucial to the course and for your self-development as a referee. Details of the local leagues will be communicated to you by your County FA Referees Department either prior to or during the course itself. It will then be down to each individual to arrange to referee around your availability.

Do I have to re-register to referee each season?

Yes, you will need to re-register with **Essex FA** each season. This is an on-line process and currently costs £20.00 (about one match fee). Your first year's registration is included within your course fee. Guidance on the process on re-registration will be emailed to referees when the registration for the following year opens.

What support will I receive from Essex FA?

Essex FA provides a strong support network for newly qualified referees. In addition to being able to access our mentor scheme early on, you will be invited to attend various development sessions throughout the season. You can also contact the County FA Referee Development Team at any time should you have any issues or questions.

How do I move up the refereeing ladder?

Essex FA is keen to see and help its referees develop and progress to achieve their full potential and as such, have a structured promotion pathway for referees. The basic requirement is that you must have refereed a minimum of 20 games prior to seeking to be promoted. Applications to **Essex FA** for promotion are made during January of each year. Further details can be found within the Referees Section of the county FA website www.essexfa.com/referees

What is the first step?

The first step is to attend an **Essex FA** Introduction to Refereeing Evening. This is a two-hour introduction evening where you will be guided through the refereeing experience looking at all formats of the game and the opportunities available. If you decide to start your refereeing journey here the 'Referee Course' (11v11 or 9v9 football) will only be a few weeks away.

We strongly recommend that parents of all candidates under the age of 17 attend this Introduction to Refereeing Evening to gain a full understanding of the commitment required to complete the course.

How much does this County FA Introduction to Refereeing Evening cost?

This introduction session is **Free** to attend however, you will be required to book your place before attending.

How do I find the dates and enrol on this session?

To receive details relating to the CFA's Get into Refereeing sessions (Unit1) you will be required to register your details via the online interest form, which can be accessed via this link <http://www.essexfa.com/referees>

When do I register and pay to join the course?

Shortly after the Introductory Session (normally the next day), a link to the booking site will be emailed to enable the candidate to book and pay for their place on the course.

This information will be sent to you by the Essex FA Referees Department

Once the booking stage has been completed and payment received, pre-course learning material will be sent for study and completion prior to attending the practical training elements of the course.

FA REFEREE COURSE DETAILS

- Referee courses will be limited to 24 candidates per course and all places are booked online on a first come, first served basis with alternative courses available if your first choice has sold out
- The Pre-Course Activity booklet has to be completed and brought along to the course for marking, as this is the First Unit of the course.
- The referee course is based on 18 learning hours. This is not limited to two full days; it could be spread over a number of days over half term for example.
- Course candidates will be required to successfully complete The **FA Safeguarding** and **FA CRC requirements** (age dependent) before being registered and able to officiate in any football matches
- After attending the Practical Refereeing Course, candidates move on to the next Unit, which requires them to referee a minimum of '5' matches in 9v9 and/or 11v11 football, as these formats include Offside decision making.
- New referees are classified as **Level T - Trainee Referees** and have four months to complete their five games before attending the course exam. (We can be flexible for long-term injuries or at certain times of the year when no football is played.)
- The course exam is a multiple-choice exam on the Laws of the Game and lasts thirty minutes. After the exam, we will go through the results
- The remainder of the exam night will be feedback on your games that you have refereed to develop yourself for the future.
- Candidates who successfully complete all the requirements will have their details sent to The FA, who will post out a certificate and badge confirming your full referee qualification.
- Fully qualified referees will be reclassified to **Level Y – Youth Referee** (if aged 14-15) and **Level 7 - Junior Referee** (if aged 16+)

By booking onto a FA Referee Course, candidates agree to commit to completing the FA Practical Referee Course as detailed below:

- Candidates will be required to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the course sessions.
- Candidates will be required to ensure that they act in an appropriate manner and respect the FA Tutors and other candidates throughout the duration of the Course.
- Candidates will be required to take part in all aspects of the practical course.
- Candidates will be required to act as both match officials and as players within each of the practical role-play scenarios.
- Candidates will be required to bring appropriate training wear, boots, shin pads and waterproof clothing.
- Candidates will be required to complete the FA's Safeguarding Children Training
- Candidates will be required to complete an FA CRC (Over 16's Only)
- Candidates will be required to be available to referee five games upon completion of unit 4.
- Candidates will be required to submit details of these games back to CFA RDO via the FA 5-match Form

The whole aim of the new FA Referees course is to produce active match officials who will be able to go out and referee within the counties local leagues.

Upon booking this course, you agree to the Essex FA Terms & Conditions. Full details can be found here: www.essexfa.com/coaches/terms

All enquiries related to the FA Referees Course should be directed to our Referees Department.

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We look forward to working with you at one of our forthcoming FA Referee Courses.

**REFEREES DEPARTMENT
ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.**