

What is your current level within Refereeing? Level five

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)?

Started 7-6 in 2013/14, 6-5 in 2014/15

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

Yes, the most important was ensuring I had the required experience as a L7 to start on the scheme, and that I could commit to the number of open age games each season.

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

I was doing both youth and adult

How did you find the application process? The application was fine, all of the information was on the website and the communication is good from start to finish.

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session? I found these really valuable, not only to meet with fellow referees and share experiences, but also to learn techniques that related to things I had already experienced on the pitch

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination? The exams are not overly difficult, but the wording and examples can be a little left field. Once you get used to the technique of reading the question carefully and answering the question based only on the LOTG they are usually straightforward.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season? I used to be very nervous being assessed, particularly as a L7. As you progress, you realise the assessors are there to help and give you valuable development advice and therefore the on-field performances should improve. I have found that my performances when being assessed have been more focused as I have begun to understand exactly what is being looked for at each level.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion? The chance to referee more challenging games, often at a higher standard than you would be exposed to otherwise

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion? The teams knowing I was being assessed and trying to use that to their advantage.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion?

Probably the same as above. You get some challenging games, which is a sharp learning curve.

What would you say to a Referee (New or Existing) who is thinking about applying for the promotion scheme for the first time? The promotion scheme is well worth it. You get all the support you need, and the support and advice from the assessors alone can really help you develop. Being on promotion professionalises your refereeing. It is structured in a way that develops your skills at just the right pace, and you get the chance to referee and assist at a higher level. The added benefit is that fellow referees who have been there before you are always willing to share their experiences. The really are no drawbacks.

What is your current level within Refereeing?

Currently I am a level Five referee

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)?

I have been on the promotion scheme for two (2012-13, 2013-14) of the previous three seasons and am currently on the Five to Four promotion scheme.

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

Nothing other than the minimum requirements for Seven to Six, but subsequently with Six to Five and now Five to Four I spent time working out the requirements and which leagues I would need to officiate on to give myself the best chance to achieve each promotion.

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

Primarily Adult football, with some youth football via county cup appointments.

How did you find the application process?

The forms were quite easy to fill out, making the decision to submit them was the difficult part

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session?

Having the opportunity to talk to other referees and discuss match incidents gives you a better understanding of what is required in given situations and can provide excellent points you can add to your own game.

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination?

Proper preparation really helps, I didn't have as much time for the Six to Five exam as I did for the Seven to Six and this showed, I still passed but not as well as I would have liked. I made sure I studied harder for the 5-4 exam.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season? Constructive criticism can be hard to take, but you have to realise that the only way you are going to improve is by being told a few hard truths, and, use them to be a better referee. Read and re-read the assessments, it may take several run-throughs to notice what the assessor is trying to get across to you.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion?

The noticeable improvement in performance by applying what you receive in your assessment feedback in your next game, improving as a referee was what it was all about for me.

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion?

The amount of paperwork and admin involved, along with ensuring you manage to complete enough games to meet the criteria. Injury prevention and a bit of luck with the weather helps.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion?

Tough but rewarding, it is not easy but achieving your promotion is a great feeling.

What is your current level within Refereeing? – Level five

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)? Reached L5 in 2014

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

Yes – essexfa.com website provides all necessary information plus talked to referees who had been through the promotion scheme at the local referee association

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

No, I was refereeing within the local Adult leagues.

How did you find the application process? Very easy and straightforward

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session?

Loved them – tutors are great, sessions were well-planned, lots of take-away to help me improve

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination?

Very useful ... I refer to the laws frequently to double-check my knowledge of the Laws – the examination was another good test of my knowledge

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season?

All very positive ... I had 6 assessments (3 at L7-6 and 3 at L6-5) – great bunch of Assessors including former Football league officials and current L3s and L4s ... all were very happy to talk before and after the game about my development and their experiences ... having an experienced referee come to focus on me for 2-3 hours and give me feedback is invaluable

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion?

Being assessed – they come out to watch and help me

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion?

Mandatory cautions ... I am naturally a “manage the game” type of referee and used to hate to caution for the mandatories ... working with the Assessors helped me realised why they are important to my match control

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion?

I changed – for the better – in every game – how I referee – as a result of being on promotion I was initially concerned about developing a 2-tier approach to refereeing – one for the Assessors and one for non-assessing games ... I quickly realised there is only one correct way to referee and have been able to sustain a higher level of refereeing.

I did find a little apprehension in the days before a game that could be assessed – if the phone rang mid-week – could it be an Assessor ... could I be assessed on the top division crunch game I’ve got at the weekend ... would I rather I was assessed the week after on a perceived easier game ... in the end I looked forward to being assessed and hoping for the phone call.

What is your current level within Refereeing? - Level six

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)? - 2 seasons ago

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion? I researched the promotion material made available by the RDO and my fellow referees who have also been through the scheme

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football? I started my refereeing career doing both youth and adult football and I continued that through the promotion scheme

How did you find the application process? The application was one simple online form and was very straightforward to understand.

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session? The in service training session was good because it prepared you for what to expect in the promotion scheme and if you take the points on board, you should gain promotion for Level 7 to 6

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination? The Laws of the Game examination requires study, you cannot go in to the exam and think that you will pass, some of the Laws change their wording slightly season after season.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season? All the assessors I had were very supportive and their feedback was not overly critical, it was constructive criticism, in the way that your positioning may be slightly off, but here's what you can do to make it better in the second half. Even the players become different when they know you have an assessor watching you, they challenge your match control more, but they understand that you are being assessed and don't try to make the game too difficult for you, especially in the league I refereed in.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion? Being on promotion gave me the chance to improve my game and the way I referee, even now when I'm with senior colleagues for one or two levels higher than me, I am always looking to them for advice. It also tested me at being a referee in the way that when the feedback form came through I'd go to the improvement points first and look at that side of my game where I am weaker, I'd carry that into games where I wasn't being assessed so as to not be picked up on it for another assessment.

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion? At the end of my game, (say I have a game on the Saturday) I will be planning for my next game once my admin is done for that game. My bit of advice for anyone coming through the Promotion Scheme is, make sure you do the big things well and the little things even better.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion? My overall experience of refereeing on promotion is that it has made me become a better referee and it helped improve my game with the use of the feedback from the assessors and assessments. Yes, there will be the occasional mistake, do not try to cover it up with justification, admit to it, you will earn the respect of players quicker that way. Nevertheless, most importantly ENJOY IT!

What is your current level within Refereeing?

Level three

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)?

Promoted to level four in 2011 - Started on referee Promotion Scheme in 2009

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

Yes, I made early contact with the RDO at County and spoke to senior members at the local RA.

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

Was refereeing in both but mainly adult football on Saturdays.

How did you find the application process?

Very simple and self-explanatory. Also, found that the RDO's were willing to assist if needed.

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session?

The sessions developed over the years I took part in this and I found them useful and also a good opportunity to meet other referees to share experiences and advice.

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination?

The examination was pretty simple but in order to pass it, study prior to sitting the examination was very necessary.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season?

Generally I found that the assessor were there to assist and develop you and pointed out areas that I needed to work on and I have taken many of these into the senior game. It could at times get a little frustrating as the subjective nature of assessing meant that sometimes I received conflicting advice but overall it was a positive experience.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion?

The challenge of having a goal to achieve and then the satisfaction at achieving it.

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion?

The conflicting views of assessors could be quite frustrating and a small handful of the assessor I would describe as not being relevant having not been active referees for a considerable period of time and not understanding that the game has changed from when they refereed.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion?

I found it to be a very positive experience and without a doubt my refereeing improved considerably by being able to achieve both positive and developmental feedback from other referees. It provided me with a greater knowledge and skills base and has been the foundation for my progression into the semi-professional game.

What is your current level within Refereeing? Level four

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)? 2014/15

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

No, this information was provided to my County RDO and in a way is what encouraged me to apply for promotion as well as working with other match officials within Essex.

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

Both

How did you find the application process? Very easy and straight forward.

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session?

I felt it gave me all the information that I needed, but was a bit dull. Would have been more interesting if someone who had been through the promotion scheme was there to provide their thoughts on it and act as a role model.

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination?

To the required level.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season? In my first season it was a bit daunting, especially the first one as you worry about whether you have done things right. However, when assessments were coming thick and fast in my approach to gaining level 4 I just treated every game the same and ensured that I was mentally and physically prepared for every game.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion?

Gaining some feedback to help me develop as a match official.

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion?

Admin to begin with, but this soon became a well-practised habit.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion?

I felt that my experiences whilst being on promotion were entirely beneficial and in the most part positive, it has helped me develop into the match official I am today. The best part was having assessors from higher levels come to assess me who were willing to spend time with me after the game to discuss points off the record and in a sense act as a coach.

What would you say to a Referee (New or Existing) who is thinking about applying for the promotion scheme for the first time?

What is better than being told that you are good at something? Learning from your games to make you even better. When you go on promotion you get your name out there and get some good games from being on promotion, there is no limit to how far you could go. You will get out what you put into it.

What is your current level within Refereeing? Level three

How long ago did you progress through the Referees Promotion Scheme(S)?

6 years ago (level 4 for 4 seasons, now into my second year as a 3)

Before applying did you research what was required in order to apply for promotion?

I am an active member of my local Society and gained the knowledge from them.

Were you refereeing in Youth football prior to applying or were you refereeing in Adult football?

Local Adult Leagues only

How did you find the application process? Yes straightforward and easy to apply.

What were your experiences of the Promotion In Service Training Session? I found them a little bit nervy as it was all new to me.

How did you find the multiple choice FIFA Laws of the Game Examination? Ok but once again a nervous experience due to embarrassment of failure.

What were your experiences of being assessed on your on field performances throughout the season? Good. I was fortunate as I gained promotion at the first attempt and achieved a double jump from 6 to 4.

What did you most enjoy about being on promotion? The reward at the end of being promoted.

What did you find the most challenging whilst being on promotion? The teams knowing I was being assessed and trying to use that to their advantage.

Overall, how would you summarise your experience of refereeing whilst being on promotion? A good experience due to the reasons given above. I was fortunate that I was promoted three times in two years.

What would you say to a Referee (New or Existing) who is thinking about applying for the promotion scheme for the first time? Go for it, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.