

Gloucestershire FA's

# Walking Football Week



# Be Inspired Get Involved



## John Mitchell A Walking Football Referee

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## John Mitchell - Walking Football Referee

**Name: John Mitchell**

**Age: 73**

**Club: Stroud walking football**

### **How did you get involved with walking football?**

I saw an advert for the sessions at Brimscombe 4 years ago and went along. After playing for 2 years, I decided to take up refereeing as my sole walking football endeavour and have thoroughly enjoyed it.

### **What made you want to referee within walking football?**

I Refereed traditional formats of the game for many years, but after playing walking football, I wanted to give something back to the new and growing game. The opportunity arose (courtesy of the GFA) because of my background and my involvement within the sport.

### **How has refereeing walking football impacted your life?**

The sport has grown enormously allowing me to make many new friends and had the opportunity to referee at national and international competitions.

### **Do you think it is important to have a separate walking football refereeing qualification?**

Yes. The rules are the same but have an added 'non-running' aspect. As there is much closer contact with the players, the referee must establish from the start of each game exactly what is expected. The game isn't a glorified version of 5-a-side! Minimal contact is strenuously enforced!

### **Any advice for those who want refereeing walking football?**

To understand that it requires a sound knowledge of both association/ walking football. That positioning is key and that you require confidence in their own ability. Consistency is important so that the players can understand, respect and can relate to your position.

Find out more about becoming a Walking Football Referee, here - [GloucestershireFA.com](http://GloucestershireFA.com)

