

APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS TO NON-COMPETITION MATCHES

Aim

The aim of this document is to provide a common and consistent policy to the appointment of Match Officials to non-competitive games, to ensure that the correct skill level of official is appointed, appropriate to the level of the competing teams.

Background

Non-competition games generally take place prior to the commencement of the official competition-playing season and are held by clubs and teams to trial new players and to prepare existing players for the forthcoming competitive season, both in tactical and fitness terms. In addition, non-competition games occasionally take place during the competitive period of the playing season.

This resulted in some high profile games attracting adverse media attention, brought about by ill discipline of players and incorrect and inadequate application of the Laws of the Games. Injuries to players, altercations with managers and disciplinary proceedings against Referees sometimes occur. The common factor in this less than proficient management of the game was often the lack of skill level on the part of the Referee.

The Appointment Principle

Match Officials will be appointed to non-competition matches, based on their ability and level of skill in being able to control a match involving the two competing teams.

In the higher profile games, involving ***the first teams of*** professional Clubs from the Premier League or The Football League, a Fourth Official must be appointed, to ensure the match reaches a natural conclusion with the requisite number of Match Officials of the correct level of competence.

The appointed Referee shall be ***deemed to have the ability to Referee a team from*** the uppermost competition level of the two competing teams. At least one of the two Assistant Referees or the Fourth Official (where appointed) shall also be ***deemed to have the ability to Referee a team from*** the level of the uppermost competition level of the two competing teams. This is important to ensure that there is sufficient cover, should the match Referee be taken ill or become injured.

In explanation, where a Football League first team plays a National League Premier team, a Step

1 or Step 2 (2A or 2B; National League Premier or National League, North or South) Referee may be appointed, to give that Referee the opportunity to develop their Refereeing skills.

This principle applies throughout the football pyramid. However, except in extreme and authorised situations, the level of the Referee should not drop by more than one level below the highest competing teams, especially where first teams are involved.

The Appointing Authority

The **overseeing** appointing authorities for non-competition games will be The Football Association, the PGMOL and the County Football Associations.

In line with the attached matrix, The Football Association will have first responsibility to appoint Match Officials to all non-competition matches in involving foreign national teams or foreign club teams, irrespective of the level of opposition.

PGMOL will have first responsibility to appoint Match Officials to all non-competition matches involving **the first teams of** Premier League or Football League teams (excepting matches against foreign national teams or foreign club opposition), irrespective of the level of opposition, or location of the game.

In addition, The Football Association may also be responsible **in overseeing the** appointing **of** Match Officials to matches involving a team(s) from the **National League Premier** (excepting matches against foreign, Premier League or Football League opposition), irrespective of the level of opposition, or location of the game.

The County Football Association with which the home competing club is registered will have responsibility to **oversee the appointment of** Match Officials to all non-competition matches involving National League North or South, Steps 3 and 4, or Step 5 and 6 teams (excepting matches against foreign, Premier League, Football League or National League Premier opposition).

The appointing principle applies to non-competition tournaments as well as single games.

There is nothing in this document that prevents individual Clubs appointing Match Officials directly, as long as the above principles are adhered to. The Football Association, PGMOL and County Football Associations have the overriding authority, as the overseeing body to alter any appointment directly made by an individual Club.

The Appointment Process

On first receipt of notification of a non-competition match, it is the responsibility of the Appointing Authority (**which can of course be the individual Club, as well as The Football Association, the PGMOL or the County Football Association**) to establish the level of the two competing teams. Once this has been established, the Appointing Matrix should be viewed to check the appointing level

There are occasions when professional opposition will visit teams from lower leagues and mix their team with first team, reserve team and youth team players. The appointing Authority has a duty to establish the **likely** number of first team players appearing and to appoint the appropriate level of Match Officials.

Upon appointing the Match Officials, the Appointing Authority must advise the individual Officials to close the date with other competitions on which they operate. Where County Football Associations appoint Step 5 and 6 Referees and above to games, they should be advised that the date must be closed with the Match Officials Administration System (MOAS), to ensure that “double appointing” does not take place. In addition, where the other Appointing Authorities appoint Match Officials, the Officials will be instructed to close the date with the County Football Association.

Friendly matches – match officials’ fees and expenses

In the past, match officials have been entitled to a match fee and travel expenses. Some have forsaken these payments as they benefit from the pre-season match experience but increasingly some match officials feel pressurised not to take any payment.

In financial terms, every pre-season friendly involves some financial outlay but income varies considerably - there is a large difference in terms of attendance and receipts from the gate, bar etc...between a pre-season friendly between, for example, two Step 3 teams and one where the visiting team is from the PL/FL.

To allow clubs to budget and know exactly what any match will cost them in terms of match officials’ fees/expenses an ‘all-inclusive payments’ system will operate where the home teams is from the National League Premier National League North/South or Steps 3 and 4. Match officials will be required to cover their travelling expenses from the single payment.

The system is designed to be simple and to differentiate (because of likely gate receipts) between a home match against a PL/FL team and one from a lower league. The rates represent a reduction in the match officials’ payment compared to 2011 – in particular, where the away team is non PL/FL the

reduction is of the order of 40-45%.

This system demonstrates match officials' willingness to compromise and, most importantly, will allow clubs to know exactly what the match officials' costs will be for any given game.

Home team	Away team	Ref fee	AR fee	Match total
National League	PL/FL	£100	£50	£200
National League	non PL/FL	£60	£30	£120
National League (N/S)	PL/FL	£80	£45	£170
National League (N/S)	non PL/FL	£70	£40	£150
Step 3/4.	PL/FL	£60	£40	£140
Step 3/4.	non PL/FL	£50	£35	£120
Step 5/6	PL/FL	£50	£35	£120
Step 5/6	on PL/FL	£40	£30	£100

Substitutions in non-competition Matches

Non-competition matches that involve clubs who play in Grassroots football and/or at Step 5 or below of the National League System, are permitted to use repeat substitutions, commonly known as 'rolling subs'. Any match that involves a team that plays at Step 4 of the National League System or above, repeat substitutions are not permitted.

E.g.

Step 5 team vs Step 5 team = repeat substitutions permitted.

Step 5 team vs Step 4 team – repeat substitutions not permitted.

Step 4 team vs Step 4 team = repeat substitutions not permitted

Appointing Matrix

(Minimum level of Referee required where full First Teams participate)

	Foreign National Team	Foreign Clubs	Premier League	Football League	National League Premier North/South	Step 3/4 Leagues	Step 5/6 Leagues
Premier League	Select List	National List	National List	National List	National List	National List	National List
Football League	National List	National List	National List	Step 1 (2A)	Step 2 (2B)	Step 2 (2B)	Step 2 (2B)
National League Premier North/South	National List	Step 1 (2A)	National List	Step 2 (2B)	Step 3 & 4 (3)	Step 3 & 4 (3)	Step 3 & 4 (3)
Step 3/4 Leagues	National List	Step 2 (2B)	National List	Step 2 (2B)	Step 3 & 4 (3)	Step 5 & 6 (4)	Step 5 & 6 (4)
Step 5/6 Leagues	National List	Step 2 (2B)	National List	Step 2 (2B)	Step 3 & 4 (3)	Step 5 & 6 (4)	Step 5 & 6 (4)

Overseeing Appointing Authority

The FA

PGMOL

County FA