

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Norfolk County FA Referees' Bulletin.

What extraordinary times we are facing just now, our lives are completely suspended, it feels like someone has pressed a giant 'pause' button and our day to day focus is about survival, staying fit and healthy, and looking forward to a time when we can return to normality.

I hope this message finds you well and whilst other communications are coming to you about the decisions being made regarding football in our County, we'll look to the future in this edition and a time when we can get back to our refereeing.

REFEREE PROMOTION

On cue with the above, it's the time of year when we invite applications for promotion for the next season, starting on 1st July 2020.

If you are interested in furthering your refereeing career either to Senior County referee level or to advance through the National FA system and officiate on the Contributory Leagues and above, your first step is here, and the application window is open until 31st May 2020.

We have revamped our programme again this year which should greatly enhance the learning experience. Firstly, we have updated the content of the County Seminars for Level 7s and 6s wishing to move to Level 6 or 5. Candidates must attend the seminar on Wednesday 12th August at County HQ or the FDC in Bowthorpe. Not only will the tests on the Laws of the Game be completed at these events, but we will be able to tell you exactly what is required from you in terms of commitment, to help you achieve your target in the year ahead.

Continuous training will be delivered through The FA's HIVE online portal which will provide candidates with modules to complete from home. Content and understanding of these modules as well as general feedback will be discussed and checked throughout the season.

If you are interested in applying for promotion, please carefully check the criteria below and apply by completing the application form appropriate to your refereeing level.

If you are currently on the promotion list, please apply for the next level (as if you have achieved your target for this year). i.e. If you have been on the Level 7 to 6 promotion programme, apply as a level 6 now, to go to Level 5.

Level 7s: If you qualified as a Referee (fully completed your course) prior to 31st December 2019 and will complete at least 20 games as a Referee during the current season (1st July 2019 to 31st May 2020), a minimum of 70% (14) of which must be in Adult football, please proceed to the application form [HERE](#).

Level 6s: In order to apply for promotion to Level 5 you must complete 20 games as a Referee during the current season (1st July 2019 to 31st May 2020) in Adult Football. If you are a current Level 6 or a level 7 currently on the promotion list to go to Level 6, please proceed to the application form [HERE](#).

Level 5s: In order to apply for nomination to National FA for promotion to Level 4 you must complete 20 games as a Referee during the current season (1st July 2019 to 31st May 2020) in Adult Football.

Please bear in mind that the criteria outlined in the online application form are set by The FA and are subject to amendment until 1st December 2020. Fulfilling the criteria alone will not guarantee that a promotion will be offered to Supply League Referee and Contributory League Assistant Referee as this will depend on National FA requirements at the time. If you are a current Level 5 or a level 6 currently on the promotion list to go to Level 5, please proceed to the application form [HERE](#).

FAQs...

Q. Bearing in mind the current situation, is there any flexibility on the number of 'qualifying games'?

A. Yes. Weather and COVID-19 may end up accounting for a loss of up to 33% of the playing season so requirements can be reduced by this amount.

Q. Can I gain promotion from Level 7 to Level 5 in one season?

A. It is possible, but bear in mind this would require completion of at least 45 games next season, so you would need to be available on Saturdays and Sundays for refereeing. All candidates are considered from the commencement of the season and an initial judgment is made after the first round of observations have been completed. We usually have the capacity to work with 3 Referees a season on this scheme.

Q. I'm on the promotion list now but haven't heard if I've been successful this season.

A. Promotions will be determined at the Referees Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday 7th May. Apply for subsequent promotion based on the explanation provided earlier in this article.

If you have any further questions about applying for promotion, please don't hesitate to get in touch by contacting: Matt.Carpenter@NorfolkFA.com

THE MONTHLY QUESTION < LINK >

We are always keen to get your feedback which constantly improves our service to you.

Last month, we asked you about our annual CPD training and whether, for one year only, you'd like us to arrange an optional Referee Development Day and provide the regular updates as an online course.

The result was a narrow victory for a Development Day which claimed 55% of the votes. Of course, due to the current situation we are unable to progress with organising any events for this summer, so unfortunately it looks like our options will be restricted. We will of course, find a way to update you before the new season begins.

This month we are asking how you keep fit to Referee or do you just Referee to keep fit? You can answer anonymously; we're not checking up on you! Please click on the link in the header of this paragraph to share your thoughts. It will literally take you less than a minute to reply!

THE REFEREES' BUSINESS DIRECTORY < LINK >

With nearly 500 people involved in our wonderful Norfolk Refereeing Community, it occurred to me that many of you are involved in offering goods and services to people in your employment or as part of your own businesses. By setting up a work directory we can enable your refereeing colleagues to contact you if they wish to be your potential customers.

If you'd like to be listed in this directory to promote your business or offer the services of the company you work for, simply fill in the details on the form via the link in the header above and we'll start to create our guide and make it available to all Referees later in the year. Hopefully it will build into our very own 'Trust a Trader' directory!

TARGET USA CUP

All being well, the Target (formally Schwan's) USA Cup will be holding its 36th year of competition in 2020 – Friday 10th to Saturday 18th July. This is the world's largest international youth tournament involving boys' and girls' teams in the 9 to 19 age range from all over the world.

a total of over 400 Referees take part ranging from Level 7 to FIFA, many from the USA plus others from a number of other countries including Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Brazil, England, Scotland, Norway,

Italy, Romania, Chile, Japan and China. Referee assessments take place during the tournament to evaluate all and to advise who is appointed to the finals as well as to receive awards.

Those wishing to attend, MALE or FEMALE, must be at least 17 years old on 1st July and have actively refereed for at least 18 months having qualified no later than 1st January 2017, have refereed 20 games per season, as well as a done a minimum of 10 as assistant in competitive games per season. A greater proportion of games may well be as an assistant referee. You will be paid according to your level, with your dorm fees deducted before you receive your final amount some weeks after the event.

Please contact trevor.wing10@btinternet.com for flight costs and full details.

NORFOLK FA REFEREES' SHOP < LINK >

We have a brand-new official supplier for Referee kit and accessories. No deliveries at the moment, but you can place orders. Click on the link in the title above to access the shop and see the advertisement below for a great opening offer...



Refshub.co.uk NIKE REFEREE READY FOR THE PITCH.

NIKE DRY REFEREE LS TOP	NIKE DRY REFEREE SHORT	NIKE CLASSIC II SOCK
 BLACK/ANTHRACITE	 BLACK/ANTHRACITE	 BLACK/WHITE
READY FOR THE PITCH. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dri-FIT fabric moves sweat away from your skin quicker• 2 large chest pockets secure storage with interior straps• Raglan sleeves allow for a natural range of motion	SECURE YOUR FIT, PREPARE FOR ACTION. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dri-FIT fabric moves sweat away from your skin quicker• 3 pockets store essential items during the match• Drawcord provides a low-profile custom fit	CLASSIC DESIGN, COMFORTABLE PERFORMANCE. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dri-FIT fabric helps keep you dry and comfortable• Cushioning in high-wear areas to help absorb impact• Dynamic arch provides a supportive fit and feel

£30 -VOUCHER- EXCLUSIVE NORFOLK FA REFEREE DISCOUNT VOUCHER
USE CODE: **DISCREFNORFFA**

VOUCHER TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY ON YOUR COUNTY FA'S REFSHUB.CO.UK PLATFORM. VOUCHER VALID AGAINST PURCHASES OF FEATURED NIKE REFEREE KIT (E.G. JACK'S SHIRT, SHORT & SOCKS)

David Robinson
Referee Development Officer