

### WELCOME

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

### NEW SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

I am sure that you have all been as shocked and appalled as I have in recent months about the terrible cases of child abuse that have been revealed across many sports, including football. The FA as an organisation have completed a thorough review of all practices and it is clear that Referees can play an important role in policing our beautiful game and can help protect the children and the venerable adults involved.

To this end, it is crucial that we must provide appropriate training to all of you involved in youth football and those of you qualified as match observers and referee coaches. To educate everyone and then keep you all updated, you will now be required to partake in safeguarding training every three years. Attendance at a workshop will be required every 6 years with an online update being required in between.

For those of you that haven't had any safeguarding training for many years, you will soon be receiving an email inviting you to book onto a workshop. For those of you who have attended a workshop over 3 years ago, you'll be sent details of how to complete the online renewal.

It's vital that you take action as soon as possible. You will not be able to re-register as a Referee for next season unless this safeguarding training has been completed (and of course you have an in-date DBS Certificate).

If you receive a notification and are not involved in youth football, please contact me immediately so that your FA record can be updated accordingly.

**THANK YOU for dealing with these important matters and helping to keep our game SAFE.**

### 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 how you are paid for your matches. A massive majority were in favour of cash payments (88%) with the remaining 12% looking for a change to direct payments into a bank account. The question arose from work being undertaken at National level around the Matchday App and how Clubs manage their finances. We now have a strong reply to the enquiry when it comes from Norfolk Refs!

Our second question relates to the matter of Sin Bins, so please click on the link in the header of this paragraph to share your thoughts. It'll 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!

### NEW REFEREES' COURSES < LINK >

We are delighted that 36 new Referees are currently in training as we progress through our courses at Alive Lynnsport in King's Lynn and at the FDC in Bowthorpe Norwich. There's still an opportunity for us to run a further course at Caister Academy on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

If you know of anyone interested, please ask them to get in touch. Full details are available by clicking on the link in the header of this paragraph.

### PITCHSIDE REFS & CONFIRMATIONS



Don't forget to keep your Pitchside Refs calendars up to date with any Closed Dates that

you have, preferably up to four weeks in advance. Thank you for confirming your appointments with us so promptly, we have been working hard with Leagues to ask Clubs to confirm with you. **Please always acknowledge their text or email when they contact you.**

### NORFOLK FA REFEREES' SHOP

For the exclusive use of registered Norfolk officials for new kit and accessories.



Remember to use the "RESPECT" discount code. Click on the logo to access the shop.

**David Robinson**  
Referee Development Officer