

WELCOME

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

Hopefully this message finds you well and if you are still working to keep our Country going in any form, on behalf of everyone at Norfolk FA we thank you for your endeavours.

As you will know both Daryl and David have been 'furloughed' until the end of June so they find themselves in a strange phase which David has said feels like a 'trial retirement'! As Referees they both continue engage and support on a personal level of course, including the well-received daily Facebook quizzes from Quizmaster Robinson! Whilst the two key members of our Referee team are furloughed, they will not be entering into 'business related correspondence' so if you have any queries during the next two months, please email Info@NorfolkFA.com and these will be dealt with by a non-furloughed staff member.

REFEREE PROMOTION 2019-2020

We are delighted to announce the following Referee promotions as confirmed by the Norfolk FA Referees Committee last month:

Level 7 to 6: Harry Amey & Morgan Rusted

Level 6 to 5: Lorraine Catchpole; Shaun Catchpole; Gary Chaplin; Harley Golder; Nick Hunt; Stuart Jessop; Tom Rampling; George Sewell; James Sneddon; Ryan Starkey & Matt Steward.

Level 4W to 3W: Lorraine Catchpole

And recommended to National FA for promotion from Level 5 to 4 are: Egidijus Amsiejus; Matt Friend; Ben Green; Louis Lofts & Harvey Newstead.

Huge congratulations to all.

REFEREE PROMOTION 2020-2021

With the Association heading into a difficult financial position, it is uncertain as to what limitations we may face on next season's referee promotion programme. However, we will continue to prepare and in last month's bulletin David outlined the procedure for applying for promotion. Please refer back to the April bulletin if you missed this where any questions you may have will be covered. Use the links to the application forms, the deadline is now extended until 30th June.

I know that David is currently planning to write to you on 1st July with confirmation of acceptance or otherwise but of course this will be dependent on the situation at the time.

This month we'd like to invite applications onto the Women's Promotion Pathway which is open to any Referee (male or female) who regularly officiates in the Women's game.

There are 5 steps in this new pathway:

Women's Super League Referee	1W
Women's Championship Referee	2W
Women's National Referee	3W
Women's Regional Referee	4W
Women's Youth Referee	YW

Promotion from YW to 4W is automatic at age 16. County FA controls the promotion from 4W to 3W so effectively all Referees involved in Women's football are a 4W and this will be applied to your FA record over the close season.

If you wish to apply for promotion to 3W you need to have qualified as a Referee (fully completed your course) prior to 31st December 2019 and have refereed in the Norfolk Women's & Girls League during the current season (1st July 2019 to 31st May 2020). Next season you will need to complete a minimum of 14 games in Women's football as a Referee and at least 3 as an Assistant. You will need to be observed three times on these games attaining the level of standard or above and successfully complete a test on the Laws of the game.

If you'd like to apply, please proceed to the application form [HERE](#).

THE MONTHLY QUESTION < LINK >

Last month, we asked you how you keep fit to Referee or do you just Referee to keep fit? 50% of you run regularly, 38% walk regularly and 33% also cycle. 30% of you participate in other sports while 25% regularly attend a gym. 20% just Referee to keep fit.

This month's question is about what you are up to during the Lock Down. Please click on the link in the header of this paragraph to let us know.

SAFEGUARDING COURSES

For those of you that received details relating to out of date safeguarding qualifications and subsequently booked onto workshops which were subsequently cancelled, we are awaiting final clarification that you will be given a seasons' grace on these matters.

Those of you that can renew by completing the online workshop are able to still do so of course.

The position should not affect your ability to re-register for the 2020-21 season as was previously communicated.

REFEREE REGISTRATION & CPD

It will be possible to re-register on 1st of June as usual but you will be unable to purchase related products at this time. We will write to you with details of how to buy Personal Accident Insurance, Norfolk FA Ties and Badges at a later date.

As explained previously, 'hard copies' of the Laws of the Game are no longer available to County FAs, please download the App from the IFAB website. The changes to the Laws of the Game for the 2020-21 season are available [HERE](#).

We will cover the Law Changes and give you appropriate updates prior to the new season starting but at the moment, it's impossible to plan for this. With that in mind, we can confirm that regular plans for our summer face-to-face CPD events have sadly been shelved and our option to provide something completely different in terms of a Referee Development Day in July, is also cancelled.

Our initial thoughts are that we will host a series of online CPD events prior to the season starting. As usual, to receive appointments from Norfolk FA, you will need to 'attend' an event. Content will be determined at a later date but we'd certainly like these sessions to be relatively informal and offer a chance for people to catch up with refereeing colleagues as well as prepare after what we expect will have been a long layoff by that time!

Our test on the Laws of the Game will still be completed online as in previous years, it looks like some of you will have more time to revise than usual, so we will be hoping that everyone passes first time!

DBS REQUIREMENTS

Finally, some of you may be concerned that your DBS has now expired or is due to expire, so here is the official statement regarding this situation...

The FA is implementing temporary changes to DBS checks in football for the period that football is suspended due to coronavirus, up to and including the start of the 2020-2021 season. These changes are outlined below and will apply to all roles in football. This decision has been made in light of the current cessation of football activity, difficulties regarding online ID verification for the purposes of renewing a DBS check and demand on the DBS service due to the current health crisis.

1. All new referees, referee coaches, observers and mentors registering to officiate within youth football who will be carrying out regulated activity with U18s (in accordance with DBS guidance) require an Enhanced DBS before they

commence their role within football. This is current practice and will remain in place. However, we ask that new DBS checks are not submitted whilst football activity remains suspended. For the avoidance of doubt, volunteers will not be permitted to carry out regulated activity with U18s until they have obtained a DBS check. The FA will provide a further update on processing new DBS checks in due course when there is further clarity on football activity will resume.

2. All individuals whose DBS checks are due to expire between 1 March 2020 and 1 October 2020 will not be required to renew their DBS checks until 1 year after the scheduled date of expiry. The FA currently requires DBS checks to be renewed every 3 years in accordance with industry standards and best practice. However, we have made an informed decision to extend that to 4 years, in these limited circumstances, on the basis of the current health crisis and associated difficulties in DBS check renewal and the fact that these individuals already hold a DBS check which has been accepted by The FA.
 - a. The FA is currently proposing an end date of 1 October 2020, based on the fact that this season's grassroots footballing activity has ended and the assumption that pre-season will commence with the start of the youth season starting September 2020. However, as circumstances develop, this date is potentially subject to change.
 - b. The FA's Whole Game System will be updated to reflect these changes.

Please note that the changes outlined are temporary, and The FA reserves the right to review and amend the position, including to reflect changes in legislation and/or statutory guidance with respect to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and further clarity on when football activity will resume. The above changes are made to support the footballing family in the immediate term and to support a return to football activity in the longer term whilst ensuring The FA's commitment to safeguarding remains in place.



Norfolk FA Referees Department