



North Riding County FA **Referee Development Policy & Referee Support Hotline**

The following policy has been put together for all Match Officials on how they will be supported by North Riding County FA.

The policy has been developed by Ross Joyce our Referee Development Manager (RDM) and with the support of our Referee Development Committee.

This policy is designed to clarify the process and procedures that North Riding County FA will adhere to and can be expected to deliver to our Referee Workforce.

North Riding County FA fully appreciates how difficult the role of a Match Official can be, and wants to ensure that all our Officials have the best possible support available to them at all times.

To ensure we can offer the best possible provision, we have implemented the following initiatives to better support our Referee Workforce:

- **All new Trainee Referees to be offered a Referee Mentor in partnership with our local Referee Association Branches**
- **Continual 24hr Referee Support Hotline - 0330 122 2932**
- **Unannounced Visits to games by North Riding FA personnel**
- **Monday Referee 'clinics' to help support Match Officials from weekend games**

North Riding County FA Referee Support Hotline

The Referee Hotline is in place for all Match Officials who may experience an issue during or after a game with regards to the possible conduct of a team, is subject of an assault or improper conduct, and requires support with submitting any disciplinary reports or any other issue, no matter how minor.

We ask that Match Officials save the following number within their phones – **0330 112 2932** and should they have any issues please don't hesitate to contact us and a member of our Referee Development Team will contact you within 12 hours, but typically the same day.

The number is an automated number and is charged as a local number and is included in mobile phone packages.



Monday 'Referee Clinics'

We also have a Monday 'Referee Clinic' which makes available to all of our Referee Workforce the opportunity to call into our County FA office or arrange an appointment for a member of our Referee Development Team to help support with disciplinary report writing or offer any advice that may be required.

To arrange an appointment please call **0330 112 2932** and we will be happy to arrange this.

Match Official Assault Policy

If any Match Official is subject to an assault whilst officiating, we will follow the below procedure upon receipt of an allegation on a registered North Riding County FA Match Official, whether sent by the Match Official or other stakeholder within the game.

Immediately after receiving the report we will:

- Acknowledge receipt of Report in writing within 2 working days
- Arrange a meeting / visit or suitable alternative with the Match Official
- Automatically refer the incident to the County Welfare Manager if the Match Official is below the age of 18 years or considered to be a vulnerable adult

Within 5 working days of receiving the report we will:

- Discuss and agree the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken against the offender(s)
- Provide contact details of the relevant Police authority and/ or Police Victim Services
- Discuss and agree with the Match Official an action plan moving forward that should include the opportunity for match day support moving forward
- Ensure the Local Referees Association branch is informed of the incident to allow further support to be offered

Ongoing commitment to the Match Official

- Arrange for a member of the Referee Development Team to attend and support at a personal hearing if one is requested
- Ensure regular contact is made with the Match Official before and after a possible hearing
- Provide details on the outcome of the personal hearing if relevant and requested for by the Match Official

Any Match Official who is subject to physical contact or is assaulted must ring the Referee Support Hotline (**0330 112 2932**) to make the Association aware and we strongly advise reporting the matter to the Police.