



REFEREE PROGRESSION PATHWAY

WELCOME

We are delighted you have joined the Referee progression pathway. This pack provides the information you need to meet the requirements and focus on developing your Refereeing.

The pathway lets you control your progress up the Referee ladder at your own pace. With four opportunities for Levels Y1-Y2, 7-6, and 6-5, you can achieve your goals without waiting until the end of the season. Levels 5-4 and Women's Grassroots Referee - National League Referee follow a year-long process. With online development modules, Laws of the Game exams, Match Day Coaches and Observers, your opportunities to progress are greater than ever.

Your County FA is here to guide you through this pathway. Feel free to contact them with any questions.

Good luck and enjoy your games, on behalf of The Football Association.



FOR ALL



LEVEL Y1 - Y2

LEVEL Y1 - Y2

Welcome to your Level Y1 – Y2 progression pathway information. If this is your first step on the progression pathway please ensure you take note of the information below. There are four promotion points each season: at the end of October, December, February, and April.

Referee	AR	Developer Visits	CPD	Fitness Test	LOTG
20 (U14 and Below)	N/A	2	0	No	1 online form

LOTG

You can complete your mandatory Laws of the Game exam via the following [link](#). Your County FA will automatically be informed of your results. To pass this exam you require a score of 12/15, each question is worth one mark. To access the 2025/2026 Laws of the Game click [here](#).

MATCH RECORD SHEET

We recommend you keep track of the games you officiate throughout the course of the season so ensure you're meeting the criteria. Please click here for your [match record sheet](#).

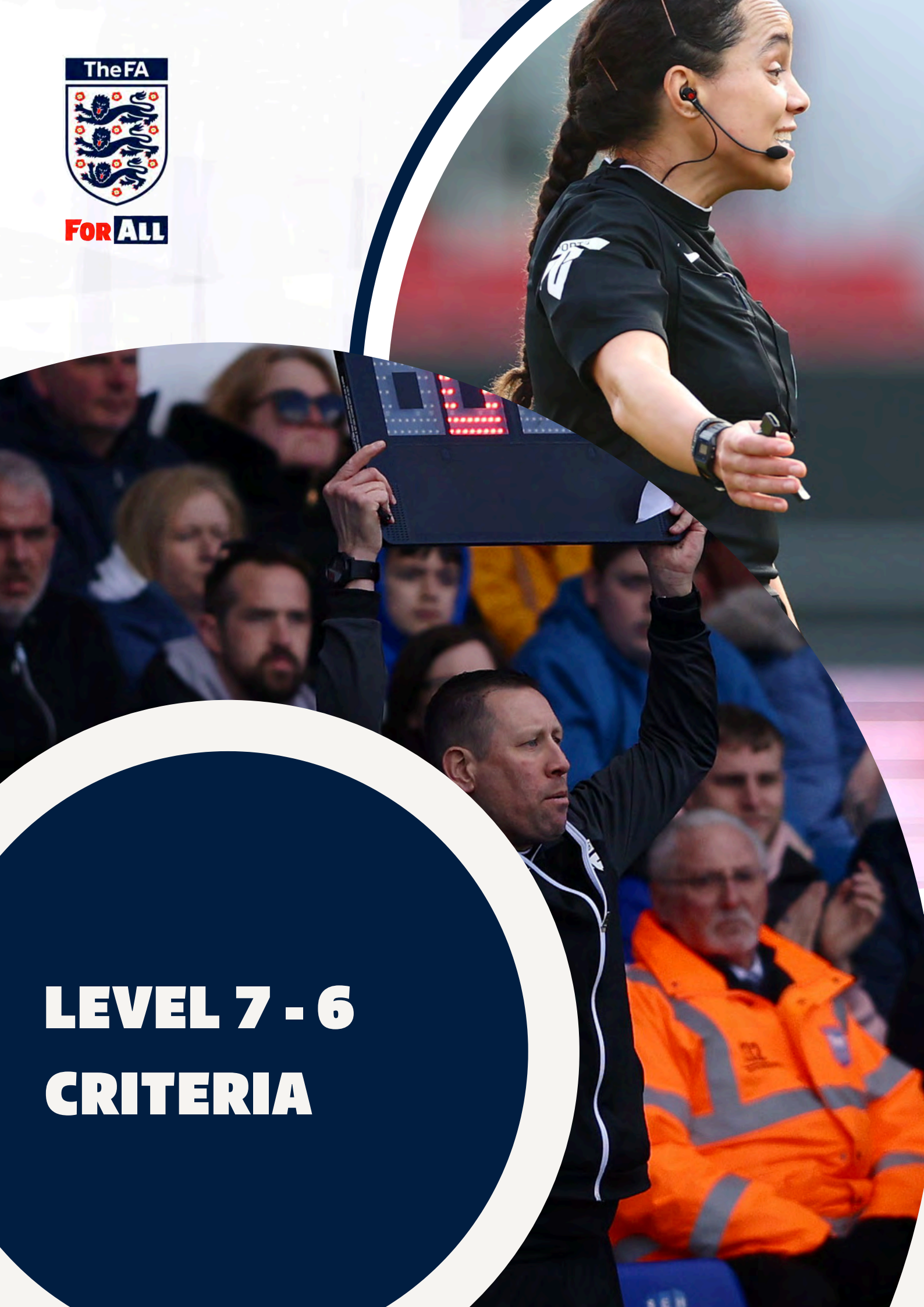
MATCH DAY COACHING

Throughout the course of the season you'll be required to receive 2 match day coaching visits. These coaches will be appointed by your County FA to watch you Referee and provide feedback on your performance.



LEVEL 7 - 6

CRITERIA



LEVEL 7 - 6

Welcome to your Level 7-6 progression pathway information. On this page, you'll find the criteria for promotion to level 6. There are four promotion points each season: at the end of October, December, February, and April.

Referee	AR	Developer Visits	CPD	Fitness Test	LOTG
25 - Minimum 10 games in adult football	5	2	2	No	1

LOTG

You can complete your mandatory Laws of the Game exam via the following [link](#). Your County FA will automatically be informed of your results. To pass this exam you require a score of 12/15, each question is worth one mark. To access the 2025/2026 Laws of the Game click [here](#).

MATCH RECORD SHEET

We recommend you keep track of the games you officiate throughout the course of the season so ensure you're meeting the criteria. [Please click here for your match record sheet.](#)

MATCH DAY COACHING

Throughout the course of the season you'll be required to receive 2 match day coaching visits. These coaches will be appointed by your County FA to watch you Referee and provide feedback on your performance.



LEVEL 6 - 5 CRITERIA

LEVEL 6 - 5

Welcome to your Level 6-5 progression pathway information. On this page you'll find the criteria for promotion to level 5. There are four promotion points each season: at the end of October, December, February, and April.

Referee	AR	Developer Visits	CPD	Fitness Test	LOTG
25 - Adult (U21s+) games	5	2	3	No	1

LOTG

You can complete your mandatory Laws of the Game exam via the following [link](#). Your County FA will automatically be informed of your results. To pass this exam you require a score of 12/15, each question is worth one mark. To access the 2025/2026 Laws of the Game click [here](#).

MATCH RECORD SHEET

We recommend you keep track of the games you officiate throughout the course of the season so ensure you're meeting the criteria. [Please click here for your match record sheet](#).

MATCH DAY COACHING

Throughout the course of the season you'll be required to receive 2 match day coaching visits. These coaches will be appointed by your County FA to watch you Referee and provide feedback on your performance.



LEVEL 5 - 4 CRITERIA



LEVEL 5 - 4

For details on the fitness test, please refer to page 11.

Welcome to your Level 5-4 progression pathway information.

This is the final step on the Referee progression. As a 5–4 promotion candidate, you'll be part of either the seasonal or annual promotion process. [Annual 2025 criteria](#) - [Seasonal 2025/26 criteria](#)

Referee	AR	Observations	LMS Modules	LOTG	Fitness Test
15 - Adult (U21s+) games	15	4 observations Average 71.5	4 – Must be completed within the month	4 – Must be completed within the month	17/22 4 Sprints - 6.20s

CPD

Your CPD for the season will be delivered directly by The Football Association via the LMS platform. This will include four online CPD modules and four Laws of the Game (LOTG) exam. You must complete them by the end of the release month. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in removal from the promotion scheme. [Please click here for the LMS platform.](#)

MATCH RECORD SHEET

We recommend you keep track of the games you officiate throughout the course of the season so ensure you're meeting the criteria. [Please click here for your match record sheet.](#)

OBSERVATIONS

Throughout the course of the season you'll be required to receive a minimum of 4 observations. These observers will be appointed by your County FA. The average mark needed to be nominated to The FA for promotion is 71.5 (Seasonal 2025/26)

GAMES

- Feeder leagues or the highest level of County football available
- Tiers 4 and above Women's Football Pyramid
- County FA Cup Competitions
- U23 Competitions that operate with Assistant Referees
- BUCS Prem/Tier 1

FITNESS TEST

This page outlines the fitness test requirements for Level 5 to 4 Referee nominations. It includes full details of the interval run and sprint tests. You'll also find all necessary documentation. All fitness results must be submitted by your County FA as part of the nomination process.

FITNESS TEST REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for nomination, candidates must meet the following fitness standards:

Interval Run: Complete the 17/22 interval run.

Sprint Test:

Men's Game Pathway - Complete 4 x 40-meter sprints, each in 6.20 seconds or less.

SPRINT TIMING CRITERIA:

All sprints must be electronically timed.

A 1.5-meter preparation zone must be measured and used before each sprint.

A maximum of 5 sprint attempts is permitted, with at least 4 meeting the required time.

TEST ATTEMPTS AND RECORDING:

Each candidate is allowed a maximum of two attempts to pass the nomination fitness test with their County FA.

The County FA is responsible for accurately recording the interval and sprint times and submitting the results to The FA Refereeing Department as part of the candidate's nomination.

AUDIO AND DOCUMENTATION

All required fitness documents can be accessed [via this link](#). Referees must complete the medical form before taking the fitness test, ensuring their blood pressure is at or below 140/90 mmHg. The link also includes FAQs and the audio file for the fitness test.



**WOMEN'S GAME
GRASSROOTS
REFEREE - F.A
NATIONAL
LEAGUE REFEREE**

WOMEN'S GAME GRASSROOTS REFEREE - NATIONAL LEAGUE REFEREE

Welcome to your Women's Game Grassroots Referee - National League Referee progression pathway information. On this page you'll find everything you'll find the criteria for promotion to Women's national league Referee. This progression pathway is seasonal only.

Criteria can be found here.

Referee	AR	Observations	LMS Modules	LOTG	Fitness Test
15 Adult games (U21s+) – 10 must be Women's	15 – 5 must be Women's	3 observations Average 71.5	4 LMS	4 LMS	No

CPD

Your CPD for the season will be provided directly by The Football Association. This will include four online modules and four Laws of the Game exams. Your login details for The FA Refereeing Department's LMS will be sent to you directly. **Please click here for the LMS platform.**

In addition, you must attend one online Mandatory Promotion Pathway Briefing via Teams. These will take place on: Monday 11 August 2025 and Thursday 21 August 2025, 19:30–20:30

MATCH RECORD SHEET

We recommend you keep track of the games you officiate throughout the course of the season so ensure you're meeting the criteria. **Please click here for your match record sheet.**

OBSERVATIONS

Throughout the course of the season you'll be required to receive a minimum of 3 observations. These observers will be appointed by your County FA. The average mark needed to be nominated to The FA for promotion is 71.5



FUTSAL CRITERIA 4-3

FUSTAL 4-3

Welcome to your Futsal Level 4-3 progression pathway information. On this page you'll find everything you'll find the criteria for promotion to Level 3. There are two promotion points January and May. **[Criteria can be found here.](#)**

Referee	MDC Reports	Online CPD	F2F CPD	LOTG	Fitness Test
15 Games as R1 or R2	3	3	1	Monthly	No

CPD & LOTG

8 online CPD sessions will be delivered during the playing season (October – May) via Microsoft Teams. You are required to attend at least 3 sessions to fulfil the progression pathway criteria.

You can complete the mandatory Laws of the Game tests each month via the FA Refereeing Department's Training Ground LMS system. All progression pathway officials will be added prior to the season. You can find the updated FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game **[HERE](#)**.

MATCH DAY COACHING

Throughout the course of the season, you'll be required to receive 3 Match Day Coaching visits. These coaches will be appointed to watch you referee and provide feedback on your performance.

APPLICATION

Apply now for the 2025/26 FA Futsal Referee Progression Pathway for Level 4 to 3 (County to Regional) and Level 3 to 2 (Regional to National). **[Click here to apply.](#)**



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MANCH

FUTSAL CRITERIA 3-2



FUSTAL 3-2

Welcome to your Futsal Level 3-2 progression pathway information. On this page you'll find everything you'll find the criteria for promotion to Level 2. This progression pathway is seasonal only. **[Criteria can be found here.](#)**

Referee	MDC Reports	Online CPD	F2F CPD	LOTG	Fitness Test
15 Games as R1 or R2	5	3	1	Monthly	Yes

CPD & LOTG

8 online CPD sessions will be delivered during the playing season (October – May) via Microsoft Teams. You are required to attend at least 3 sessions to fulfil the progression pathway criteria.

You can complete the mandatory Laws of the Game tests each month via the FA Refereeing Department's Training Ground LMS system. All progression pathway officials will be added prior to the season. You can find the updated FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game **[HERE](#)**.

MATCH DAY COACHING

Throughout the course of the season, you'll be required to receive 5 Match Day Coaching visits. These coaches will be appointed to watch you referee and provide feedback on your performance.

APPLICATION

Apply now for the 2025/26 FA Futsal Referee Progression Pathway for Level 4 to 3 (County to Regional) and Level 3 to 2 (Regional to National). **[Click here to apply.](#)**



FOR ALL

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