



# Worcestershire FA

## Parent's Guide to Refereeing

*Please read and keep this document*



## Key Information for Parents

Refereeing is an important role and there are certain expectations that we have of our referees. This document will help the parent/guardian/carer of match officials to understand our requirements before and during their referee career as well as the important role that you play – not just as a taxi service!

Things to remember:

### 1) The referee is encouraged to attend the Introduction Evening and Referee Course on their own.

**Why?** Put simply; because they will referee on their own. You will not be standing with them on the pitch to help them make decisions so it is important that they understand the need to officiate on their own.

### 2) Our contact should primarily be with the referee – not their parent/guardian/carer.

**Why?** The referee has to take responsibility for their actions. If they arrive late because Mum/Dad did not get up on time to take them to the match, this doesn't reflect badly on Mum or Dad – it reflects badly on the referee. Where referees are aged under 18, we will be happy to include a responsible adult in any communication but the emphasis should be on the referee to respond or get in touch when required.

### 3) Refereeing is not easy!

**Why?** Picture yourself stood in the middle of a pitch with 22 players waiting to start a match. Have you done a pitch inspection, a player kit inspection and completed the coin toss to decide who kicks off? Have you briefed the club assistant referees, counted the players and checked that the goalkeepers are ready? All of this is before the match even starts, and all of this is the responsibility of the referee. Not to mention the need to then control the match for 60, 70, 80, 90+ minutes, making sure that hundreds of decisions in each match are awarded correctly.

### 4) Regular communication is key!

**Why?** Referees need to talk to key people. If they become unavailable on a date, they must tell their Appointments Officer as soon as possible to prevent them being appointed to a match. A referee needs to register each year and ask if they have any questions about this process. A referee may have an issue during a match where disciplinary sanction is required and we have to investigate, meaning that we need answers to our questions in an efficient and timely manner. If a referee does not communicate well via email and phone, there will be issues.

### 5) Duty of Care...

**Why?** Our experience shows us that some 14 and 15 year olds in particular struggle with the expectations and practical nature of refereeing. Our tutors will give every learner the best chance of becoming a competent referee but as professionals we ask the parent/guardian/carer of potential referees to consider if their child is ready to venture into refereeing. A lack of a confidence will sometimes improve with experience, but remember that during the course the learner must go and referee 5 matches in order to pass. Ask yourself: would my son/daughter cope being placed into the middle of a pitch for 60 minutes and having to make and communicate every decision? **Note:** If your son/daughter is going to be doing exams at school/college then we strongly recommend that they wait until this is over before becoming a referee due to the commitment required for both.

### 6) There is a written exam.

**Why?** To test the learner's knowledge on the Laws of the Game, which they are required to know. Revision prior to this exam will be required. The exam is made up of multiple choice questions that will be shown on a screen – meaning that if the learner has any specific learning requirements we must be made aware at the point of booking the course to allow our tutors to create the best possible learning environment for all learners.

Ultimately, referees are paid to provide a service and as a result our expectations and requirements are quite specific. If you or the learners have any questions we encourage you to contact us before booking onto a course.

**All trainee referees are sent a helpful guide called 'WFA Trainee Referee Information' and we strongly suggest that you also read this to be up to date with additional support mechanisms and requirements.**