

25 - REFEREES

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to The Football Association Rule J1.4, the Board is authorised to make regulations with reference to Match Officials as they deem expedient. These 'Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees' (the "Regulations") are the regulations made under that Rule.

County Football Associations are responsible for the administration of Referees registered with The Association who reside in their area as determined by The Association. Service Associations have administrative responsibility for Referees who are serving members of the Armed Forces.

Affiliated Associations shall appoint a Referees' Committee, or an alternative appropriately constituted group, to carry out its functions under these Regulations.

These regulations fully embrace The Association's Equality Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations and Safeguarding Adults at Risk Regulations.

For the purpose of these Regulations the terms used will be defined as follows:

Administer - to carry out the administrative procedures relating to the registration and control of Referees as required or determined by The Association from time to time.

Affiliated Association - a County Football Association or Service Association.

Annual Review - the review by a Competition of its List of Match Officials entitled to be appointed for a match in that Competition, to establish the suitability of each Referee to continue to be eligible to be retained on that List. This will take place between the last day of the playing season and the 31 July each year. Such a review will take into consideration the Referee's administration, fitness, conduct and performance on the field of play as defined in these Regulations, as modified by any written instructions to a Competition from the Association from time to time. The Competition must provide reasons for the removal of a Match Official from their List to the Parent Association of the Match Official.

Appointing Authority - The Association or an Affiliated Association that appoints a Referee to take part in a match.

Club Mark - a numerical indication of a Referee's performance on the field of play, reported by competing Clubs after a match, on a scale defined by The Association.

County Football Association - an association accorded the status of a County Football Association pursuant to the Rules of The Association.

County Referee - a Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of The Association or Affiliated Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at Level 5b and above.

Examine - to supervise, in written and/or other form of examination, Trainee Referee candidates to the requirements and standards determined by The Association from time to time.

The FA Futsal Referee Course - a course of instruction for refereeing Futsal as determined by The Association.

The FA Referee Course (previously referred to as The FA Basic Referee Course) - a course of instruction for refereeing 11 a side football, 9 a side football and mini soccer as determined by The Association leading to the examination of Referee candidates.

FIFA List - those Referees and Assistant Referees, nominated by The Association and selected by FIFA, eligible for appointment to international matches.

Futsal - a form of small sided football approved by FIFA.

Futsal Observer - those individuals authorised by The Association to produce Observer reports at levels determined by The Association in relation to futsal.

Futsal Only Referee - a person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may only be appointed as a Match Official for Futsal matches.

Junior County Referee - a Referee who has completed successfully the Basic Referee Training Course, having reached the age of 16 years.

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League - a Competition sanctioned under relevant Regulations by The Association or an Affiliated Association.

Marking Season - except as otherwise determined by The Association, the marking season for promotion/retention for Match Officials operating at Level 5a and upwards shall be from the 1st July until the last day of April in the following year. Mid-season promotions for Level 5a upwards will be determined by The Association on an annual basis.

National Association - a member association of FIFA.

National Group - those Referees selected by The Association, eligible for appointment to games in the Premier League, EFL and other matches as determined from time to time.

Observer report - written appraisal of a Referee's performance on the field of play, carried out by an Observer, or a Futsal Observer, on behalf of The Association, Affiliated Association or competition and submitted to the appropriate body.

Observers - those individuals authorised by The Association to produce out Observer reports at levels determined by The Association.

Parent Association - the Affiliated Association within whose boundaries a referee resides (except for Service referees and the Amateur Football Alliance).

Playing Season - that period of the year when The Association permits football to be played.

Referee - a person registered as qualified under these Regulations who may be appointed as a Match Official, including but not limited to referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, additional assistant referees, reserve assistant referees, any category of 'video' match officials, Observers and Referee Coaches.

Referee Coach - a person appointed by an Affiliated Association to provide face to face development for Match Officials on matchdays as part of the grassroots promotion process.

Registration Period - from 1 June in each year, (or the date of successful completion of the Basic Referee Training Course if later) to the following 30 June.

Senior County Referee - a Referee who has demonstrated to the satisfaction of The Association or Affiliated Association, as required by these Regulations, the ability to officiate at Level 5 and above.

Service Association - an Affiliated Association having responsibility for the administration of the game as determined by The Association from time to time in or relating to Her Majesty's Regular Forces (the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force).

Specialist Assistant Referee - Referees who are permitted by The Association to officiate almost exclusively as Assistant Referees.

Step 2 List - those Referees selected by the Association as eligible for appointment to games within specific Leagues determined by The Association to be suitable for Level 2 Referees.

Step 3/4 Leagues - those nominated divisions, within specific Leagues as determined and considered by The Association, suitable for Level 3 Referees.

Step 5/6 Leagues - those nominated divisions, within specific Leagues as determined and considered by The Association, suitable for Level 4 Referees.

Technical Irregularity - any failure by a Referee to meet any requirement imposed on, or notified to, the Referee by The Association or an Affiliated Association. This includes, but is not limited to, any failure to comply with an administrative requirement imposed on a Referee such as the requirement to file reports, answer correspondence, attend match venues or disciplinary or regulatory hearings at a particular time, etc. or any breach of Regulation 10 or 13.

The Association - means The Football Association.

Trainee Referee - a Referee candidate who is undergoing the FA Basic Referee Course, will be recognised and classified as a Level T Referee and may be appointed as a Match Official in accordance with these regulations.

Youth Referee - means a registered Referee who is aged 14 or 15.

For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through the Board, which shall delegate such functions to the Referees' Committee.

1. REGISTRATION

- (a) No person shall be appointed as a Match Official in any Match or Competition under the jurisdiction of The Association either directly or indirectly unless registered in accordance with these Regulations.

A Competition may include in its regulations a provision by which a person who is not a registered Match Official may carry out the duties of a Match Official in a specific Match but only in circumstances where a registered Match Official cannot be appointed to or officiate in that Match. In these circumstances the appointed unregistered and/or unqualified Match Official will carry the same powers and duties of an appointed registered Match Official for the purpose of that match.

- (b) A Referee must be registered with The Association through the Affiliated Association within the area in which the Referee resides, which will be deemed that referee's Parent Association (or County). The Parent Association for serving members of The Armed Forces is the Affiliated Association of the service in which they serve; such referees may also register as an Associate Referee with the Affiliated Association in whose area they reside. A Referee will be required to pay the standard national registration fee to be determined annually by The Association. Registration will run from the date of registration until the following 30 June. A Referee may become an Associate Referee with another Affiliated Association but will not be required to pay a further fee. A Referee may register as a Futsal Only Referee.

The Memorandum attached to these regulations details the responsibilities of Affiliated Associations in respect of Referees administered by them.

- (c) In cases where the boundaries of Affiliated Associations overlap, the Affiliated Associations concerned must mutually agree responsibility of the training and examination of Trainee Referees. Once the FA Basic Referee Course has been completed, the registration of the Referee must then be transferred to the Affiliated Association of the area in which the Referee resides. A Referee who changes residence from one administrative area to another will be required to be released by the original Association before being registered with their new Association for administrative purposes but will not be required to pay a further registration fee for that season.
- (d) Referees shall not be registered with The Association until they are able to satisfy the Affiliated Association of their date of birth. A Trainee Referee must be 14 years of age or older at the time of registration.
- (e) A Referee who has failed to register as a Referee with The Association for between two and three seasons shall not be re-registered until they have successfully undertaken and completed a Laws of the Game examination, as determined by the Affiliated Association. A Referee who has not been registered for between three and five seasons must successfully complete two online development modules and successfully undertaken and completed a Laws of the Game examination, as determined by the Affiliated Association. The Affiliated Association may then register the Referee at their former Level (up to Senior County Referee) once they are satisfied with his/her their competence. A Referee who has not been registered for more than three seasons must attend and successfully complete the practical assessment and examination of The FA Referee Course, at which point they will be registered at a level (up to Senior County Referee) determined by the Affiliated Association. The Affiliated Association must not charge more than the sum determined from time to time by The Association for attendance at the assessment and examination.
- (f) A Referee's registration may be:
- (i) suspended by the Affiliated Association pursuant to Regulation 7(a); or
 - (ii) suspended or cancelled by The Association pursuant to Regulations 7(h) and 7(i).
- (g) Applications for the re-instatement of a Referee whose registration has been suspended or cancelled under Regulation 1(f) must be referred to The Association.

2. REFEREE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND EXAMINATION

- (a) The Association and Affiliated Associations shall be responsible for the recruitment, training and examination of Referees.
- (b) The requirements and standards for Referee training and examination shall be agreed by The Association.
- (c) Initial Referee training course fees shall be set by The Association for:
 - FA Referee Course
 - Futsal
 - Small Sided Football
 - Disability Football
- (d) FA Referee Course - A candidate will undergo training and evaluation, including assessments as determined by The Association.
- (e) All other formats of initial Referee training will be examined at the end of the period of training.
- (f) The minimum age a candidate may be presented for initial examination of the FA Referee Course and all other forms of refereeing will be 14 years.
- (g) Candidates who do not reach the standard required by The Association in the initial examination may be re-examined at a time appropriate to the needs of the individual as determined by The Association and/or the Affiliated Associations.

3. CLASSIFICATION

- (a) On behalf of The Association, each Affiliated Association must classify Referees administered by their Association. The classification period runs from 1 June in each year, or the date of successful completion of the initial examination, until the referee has been promoted or reclassified as part of the agreed processes.

As at 1 June in each year every Referee is to be classified as follows;

International	FIFA List Referee
Level 1	Select Group or National Group Referee
Level 2	Step 2 List Referee
Level 3	Step 3/4 Leagues Referee
Level 4	Step 5/6 Leagues Referee*
Level 5a	Senior County Referee. This classification includes Referees who have served at a higher Level.**
Level 5b	County Referee
Level 5c	Junior County Referee (16 years of age or over)
Level Y1/Y2	Youth Referee (14 or 15 years of age)
Level D	Referee Workforce (an active Referee officiating in 6 or fewer matches a season) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tutor- Observer- Mentor- Coach- Referee Developer Trainer

** Any such Referee registered with the Guernsey FA, Jersey FA and the Isle of Man FA and officiating on those islands may be classified as Level 4i according to criteria approved by The Association.*

*** Where a Referee has achieved a Level higher than Level 5 and is not retained, the Referee will usually be reclassified as a Level 5 Referee, with the option of further promotion in the normal way or until a status of non-active is declared by the individual.*

The Association may designate Referees as Specialist Assistant Referees who will officiate almost exclusively as Assistant Referees according to guidelines determined from time to time.

A Referee may be registered under one or more of the following specialist categories; such registration may be applied solely in addition to a Level 1 to 10 registration.

MSR	- Mini Soccer Referee
SS	- Small Sided Referee
International	- FIFA List Referee
1W	- WSL Referee
2W	- WCH Referee
3W	- Women's National Referee
4W	- Women's Regional Referee
YW	- Women's Youth Referee
International	- FIFA List Referee
FR1	- Tier 1 National Referee
FR2	- Tier 2 National Referee
FR3	- Tier 3 Regional Referee
FR4	- County Referee
FRY	- Referee aged U16

- (b) When a Referee changes residence from one Affiliated Association to another, the classification Level will be accepted by the Affiliated Association into whose area the Referee has moved.
- (c) A Referee moving to England from another country must provide proof of their current Referee status from their National Association. The Association will determine their classification Level.
- (d) Trainee Referees undertaking the FA Referee Course must be registered as Level T after successful completion of the final course examination. A Level T Referee will automatically become a Level 5c and/or 4W Referee (16 years of age or over) or Level Y or YW (14 or 15 years of age) upon successful completion of the FA Referee Course.
- (e) A Level Y or YW Referee will automatically become a Level 5c or 4W Referee on reaching the age of 16
- (f) FIFA nominations:

Nominations will be approved annually by The Association's Referees' Committee

Priority will be given to developing English officials who show the potential to officiate at future major international finals and tournaments

A FIFA official who ceases to be on the FIFA list will not be considered for future nomination although consideration may be given in exceptional circumstance to an official who resigned from the FIFA list for significant personal reasons

The following factors will be taken into consideration for each potential nominee:

- Domestic performances
- International performances
- Potential to officiate in future major international tournaments with special consideration being given to UEFA EURO Championships and FIFA World Cups
- Fitness and lifestyle management
- Availability
- Ambassadorial qualities
- Organisation and attitude (including feedback, reporting, self-analysis etc...)

Consideration will be given to operational requirements and the strategic planning of the overall makeup of the English FIFA lists

- (g) An Affiliated Association may take any action it deems appropriate in relation to the classification of a Referee pursuant to Regulation 7(a).
- (h) The Association may take any action it deems appropriate in relation to the classification of a Referee pursuant to Regulations 7(h) and 7(i).

4. PROMOTION

In addition to specific criteria outlined below, candidates for promotion may be required to undertake all or some of the following:

- Physical fitness test(s).
- Laws of the Game test(s).
- Competition rule and regulations test(s).
- Completion of online referee development content.
- Interview.

Account may be taken of administration, availability, and club evaluations. Account may also be taken of a candidate's disciplinary record (e.g. any proven charges of Misconduct (as defined in and pursuant to the Rules of The Association) and/or any action taken pursuant to Regulation 7.

Men's Game Pathway

- (a) Selection and promotion within Levels 4 to International will be determined as follows:

International Level	Annual nomination by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.
Level 1	Referees who have been promoted from Level 2 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 2	Referees who have been promoted from Level 3 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 3	Referees who have been promoted from Level 4 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 4	Referees who have been promoted from Level 5 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association following nomination by the Affiliated Association to act as an Assistant Referee on the Step 3/4 Leagues and as a Referee on selected Step 5/6 Leagues.

Referees will be required to complete successfully an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. On initial selection for promotion to a higher Level, Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by The Association. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected for Levels 4 and above.

- (b) Referees must apply for promotion in writing to their Parent Association should they wish to be considered for promotion within Levels 5a-5c. Selection will be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to County FAs by 31 July in the given season.
- (c) The Parent Association may charge promotion candidates an administration fee (the sum to be determined from time to time by The Association); the administration fee will be refunded to a candidate who completes the promotion process, regardless of whether or not they are promoted.

The responsibility of promoting Referees within Levels 5a-5c and Y to 5 rests with the Referee's Parent Association. All selections must be made as part of a quarterly review process taking place on 31 October, 31 December, 28 February, 31 May each year.

Levels 5a and 5b

Promotion from Level 5b to Level 5a and Level 5c to Level 5b shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis by no later than 31 July.

Women's Game Pathway

- (d) Promotion through the Women's Football pyramid will follow the criteria above, excepting that Referees choosing the women's pathway cannot automatically cross over to the same Men's pyramid classification.

As at 1 June in each year Referee is to be classified as follows;

International	- FIFA List Referee
Level 1W	- WSL Referee
Level 2W	- WCH Referee
Level 3W	- Women's National Referee
Level 4W	- Women's Regional Referee
Level YW	- Women's Youth Referee (14 or 15 years of age)

International Level - annual nomination by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees as at the date of nomination determined by FIFA. Nominees must operate regularly at the highest level of the national women's competition.

Level 1W	- Referees who have been promoted from Level 2W for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
Level 2W	- Referees who have been promoted from Level 3W for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

Referees will be required to complete successfully an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. On initial selection for promotion to a higher Level, Referees may be required to attend an interview to ascertain their suitability against criteria determined by The Association. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches required for consideration to be selected for Levels 2 and above.

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Level 3W

Promotion from Level 4W to Level 3W shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis by no later than 31 July.

A Trainee Referee who wishes to join the women's football pathway will automatically become a Level 4W Referee (16 years of age or over) or Level YW (14 or 15 years of age) upon successful completion of the Referee Course.

A Level YW Referee will automatically become a Level 4W Referee on reaching the age of 16.

Futsal Pathway

- (e) The Futsal pathway can be followed singularly as a registered Futsal Only Referee with an Affiliated Association or as a Referee who has successfully completed The FA Futsal Referee Course. Promotion through the Futsal Pathway will follow the criteria below.

International	- FIFA list referee
FR1	- Select Group Referee
FR2	- National List Referee
FR3	- Regional Referee
FR4	- County Referee
FRY	- Youth Referee
FRT	- Trainee Referee

International Referees are nominated annually by The Association to FIFA, selected from those eligible Referees operating as FR1 at the date of nomination determined by FIFA.

FR1	- Referees who have been promoted from FR2 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.
FR2	- Referees who have been promoted from FR3 for outstanding ability as determined by The Association.

Referees will be required to successfully complete an annual fitness test and other criteria as determined by The Association prior to having their classification confirmed. The Association will determine the acceptable number of matches, observer reports and average observer report mark required for consideration to be selected for Levels FR2 and above.

FR3 & FR4

Promotion from level FR3 to FR4 shall be based on criteria as determined by The Association and communicated to the Affiliated Associations on an annual basis no later than 31 May.

A Trainee Referee will become classified as FR4 upon successful completion of the FA Futsal Referee Course.

A Youth Referee will automatically become classified as FR4 upon reaching the age of 16.

5. COMPETITIONS

- (a) Affiliated Associations must advise successful candidates of the result of the initial examination, in writing, as well as providing them with details of local competitions on which they are eligible to officiate.
- (b) Referees under the age of 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee. e.g. a 15 year old referee may only referee in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger. This also applies to those mentioned in Regulation 1(a) regarding unregistered and/or unqualified Referees.

- (c) Referees under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition. This also applies to those mentioned in Regulation 1(a) regarding unregistered and/or unqualified Referees.
- (d) The Association will advise Affiliated Associations annually of those Competitions, and the recognised Leagues and divisions, which have been granted Step 5/6 Leagues status.
- (e) A Competition acting alone may not suspend a Match Official from its List at any time during the playing season (such power resting solely with The Association or Affiliated Association as appropriate under Regulation 7 below).

A Competition can only remove a Match Official from its List during the season with the written approval and permission of the Association or the Parent Association of the Match Official.

A Competition may remove a Match Official from its List as part of the Annual Review and must provide reasons for the removal to the Parent Association of the Match Official.

- (f) The practical performance on the field of play of Match Officials officiating at Step 5/6 Leagues and above shall be appraised and reviewed during and at the end of each marking season.

Competitions at Step 5/6 Leagues and above are responsible for informing Referees of their performance at regular intervals during the season.

Competitions shall provide annually to The Association or Affiliated Association as appropriate a List of the Match Officials they have appointed with the Marks and Observer reports obtained in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 12 of these Regulations.

The Association and/or competitions may wish clubs to mark Referees, but not all competitions make use of this opportunity. An example of the marking Guide and form to be used in Step 5/6 Leagues is shown at Appendix A. Similarly an example of a marking guide and form for all other affiliated football is shown at Appendix B.

- (g) A Match Official may appeal to the relevant Affiliated Association, or where appropriate The Association, against a decision of a Competition to remove or suspend the Match Official from its List.

- (h) A Competition shall not have the power to act in relation to the Registration of a Referee.

Any allegation of behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7 (a)(i) or (ii) below must be reported to The Association or Affiliated Association in accordance with Regulation 7 (c) below.

- (i) Match Officials' Fees and Expenses are set or approved by Affiliated Associations. Match Officials officiating in competitions at Step 5/6 Leagues and above may not receive any other financial reward or incentive based on their on field of play performances from any Affiliated Association or Competition, other than the set fees and expenses.

- (j) A Competition may add a new referee to its List for a period not exceeding 6 months, on a probationary basis. By the end of this period of time, the Competition must either confirm the referee as an addition to its List or inform the Parent Association of the Match Official that it will no longer offer them appointments.

6. TRAINING

- (a) The Association shall identify the training requirements of Referees at all levels and be responsible for accrediting courses of instruction to meet those requirements.
- (b) Referees will be required to attend accredited training at intervals determined by The Association. Only training delivered by accredited or approved Referee tutors will be valid.
- (c) Training may be delivered, at the appropriate levels, in conjunction with Affiliated Associations, Match Officials' associations or the Referees' Association by Referee tutors accredited or approved by The Association.

References to a Referees' Committee in Regulations 7 and 8 below shall be deemed to include any duly appointed commission or panel of that Referees' Committee, or an alternative appropriately constituted group.

7. CONDUCT OF REFEREES

Action by an Affiliated Association

- (a) Where The Association is not the Appointing Authority, the Affiliated Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:
 - (i) less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or
 - (ii) committed a Technical Irregularity; or
 - (iii) wilfully mis-stated their age or date of birth; or
 - (iv) a Football Banning Order imposed on them; or
 - (v) not acted in the best interests of the game.
- (b) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7(a) (i) or (ii) above must have been notified to, or otherwise come to the attention of the Affiliated Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon by the Affiliated Association.
- (c) Such action may only be taken by the Affiliated Association's Referees' Committee.
- (d) Where it is determined that a circumstance listed in Regulation 7(a) applies, the Referees' Committee shall confirm this in writing to the Referee, together with the supporting facts and state that the matter will be determined by the Referees' Committee.
- (e) Within 14 days of the date of the Referees' Committee's communication, the Referee shall provide a response which:
 - (i) sets out a statement of their case (to include whether they admit or deny the matter(s), (if applicable), and any submissions with regards to any action that the Referees' Committee may take); and
 - (ii) states whether they wish for the matter to be dealt with:
 - on written submissions alone; or
 - at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £25 must accompany the response).
- (f) Where no response is provided by the Referee, the Referees' Committee shall determine the matter in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.
- (g) When determining the matter (either on written submissions or following a personal hearing), the Referees' Committee shall:
 - determine whether or not a matter is proven (if applicable); and

- save for cancellation of the Referee's registration, shall have the power to act in relation to the registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, reclassification or the suspension of the Referee's registration.

Action by The Association

- (h) Where The Association is the Appointing Authority, The Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:
- less than proficiently applied the Laws of the Game; or
 - committed a Technical Irregularity; or
 - willfully mis-stated their age or date of birth.
- (i) The Association shall have the power to act at any time in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee who has:
- proved to have been concerned as an agent for a Club or a Player in the transfer or attempted transfer and/or engagement of a Player; or
 - a Football Banning Order imposed on them; or
 - not acted in the best interests of the game; or
 - been found to have committed an act of Misconduct as a Participant (as defined in and pursuant to the Rules of The Association or an Affiliated Association.
- (j) Any behaviour alleged to constitute a breach under Regulation 7(h) (i) or (ii) above must have been notified to, or otherwise come to the attention of The Association within 14 days of the relevant incident(s) for such to be acted upon by The Association.
- (k) Such action may only be taken by The Association's Referees' Committee.
- (l) Action in respect of the registration of Match Officials appointed to Competitions of The Association and other Competitions including Step 3/4 Leagues and above in the Order of Precedence (Section 9) will be considered by the appropriate committee of The Association.
- (m) Where it is determined that a circumstance listed in Regulation 7(h) applies, the Referees' Committee shall confirm this in writing to the Referee, together with the supporting facts and state that the matter will be determined by the Referees' Committee.
- (n) Within 14 days of the date of the Referees' Committee's communication, the Referee shall provide a response which:
- sets out a statement of their case (to include whether they admit or deny the matter(s) (if applicable), and any submissions with regards to any action that the Referees' Committee may take; and
 - states whether they wish for the matter to be dealt with:
 - on written submissions alone; or
 - at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £25 must accompany the response).
- (o) Where no response is provided by the Referee, the Referees' Committee shall determine the matter in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

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- (p) When determining the matter (either on written submissions or following a personal hearing), the Referees' Committee shall:
- determine whether or not a matter is proven (if applicable); and
 - have the power to act in relation to the registration of the Referee as it considers appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, censure, a period of remedial training, reclassification or the suspension or cancellation of the Referee's registration.

Acts of Misconduct

- (q) Where a Referee is subject to a Misconduct charge, no action will be taken by the Referees' Committee in relation to the registration or classification of the Referee pursuant to Regulation 7(i) until the matter has been determined by a Disciplinary or Regulatory Commission (as applicable) and any appeal determined by an Appeal Board.
- (r) Proceedings before the Referees' Committee shall not operate to provide an appeal against the decision of a Disciplinary or Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board, which shall be deemed final and binding.

Interim Suspension

- (s) Where considered appropriate in the circumstances, the Referees' Committee may order that the registration of a Referee be suspended with immediate effect, in relation to matters to be considered under Regulation 7(i) above in the latter case the reason for such suspension is to be notified to the Referee in writing and reported to the Commission hearing any resultant charge.

Guide to Personal Hearings

A Referees' Committee may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the determination of the matter before it; and shall not be bound by any enactment of rule or law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

The following may be used as a guide to the procedures to be followed at a personal hearing, unless the Referees' Committee considers it appropriate to amend them:

- (i) The Referee to be asked if the matters in question are admitted or denied.
- (ii) Evidence in support to be called.
- (iii) Evidence in response to be submitted by the Referee.
- (iv) The Referees' Committee shall be entitled to ask questions of the Referee.
- (v) The Referees' Committee and the Referee (as appropriate) shall be entitled to ask questions of any witness giving evidence.
- (vi) The Referees' Committee may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from any failure of the Referee to give evidence or answer a question.
- (vii) In the event any evidence disclosing a point which the Referees' Committee considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, a particular witness, the Referees' Committee may recall and ask questions of such witness. The Referee may also ask questions.
- (viii) After the evidence has been completed to the satisfaction of the Referees' Committee, the Referee shall be entitled to make submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Referees' Committee. This may include submissions as to any action that the Referees' Committee may take.
- (ix) At the conclusion of the submissions, all persons shall withdraw whilst the Referees' Committee considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines the matter.

- (x) After reaching a decision, the Referees' Committee shall either:
- recall the Referee, and announce its decision and any action to be taken in relation to the Referee's registration (and confirm that the decision and any relevant action shall be subsequently confirmed in writing); or
 - inform the Referee that its decision and any action to be taken will be communicated in writing in due course.

A Referee may be represented by an individual or individuals (including a legal representative), provided that they notify the Referees' Committee both of the fact that they are to be represented and of the identity of the representative(s) by the date on which their response is submitted. The representatives may speak on behalf of the Referee but shall not be allowed to give evidence.

A personal hearing may proceed in the absence of the Referee where the Referees' Committee is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for the Referee's failure to attend.

8. APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS OF A REFEREES' COMMITTEE

- (a) Where The Association or an Affiliated Association, through its Referees' Committee, makes an order in relation to the registration or classification of a Referee there shall be a right of appeal by the Referee against the decision.

Where the order is made under Regulation 7, the appeal procedure is outlined below. In all other cases the appeal shall follow the procedure determined by the appropriate body i.e. The Association or Affiliated Association.

- (b) (i) Notice of an appeal against a decision of a Referees' Committee made under Regulation 7 must be lodged with The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association within 14 days of notification of the decision appealed against, accompanied by a fee as determined by The Association.
- (ii) An Appeal shall be considered by an Appeal Board of The Association established specifically to deal with appeals from decisions under Regulation 7, none of whom shall have been party to the original decision. A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding.
- (iii) The Notice of Appeal must:
- (1) identify the specific decision(s) being appealed
 - (2) set out the grounds of appeal; and
 - (3) set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based.
- (iv) The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:
- (1) failed to give the Referee a fair hearing;
 - (2) misinterpreted or failed to comply with any rules or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or
 - (3) came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
 - (4) made an order that was excessive.

- (v) The Appeal Board may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of an appeal brought before it, and shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.

The following is set out as a guide to the conduct of a hearing before the Appeal Board:

- (1) The Appellant to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
 - (2) The Respondent to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
 - (3) The Appeal Board may put questions to the parties at any stage;
 - (4) The Respondent to make closing submissions;
 - (5) The Appellant to make closing submissions;
 - (6) The Appellant and the Respondent to withdraw whilst the Appeal Board considers the submissions and determines the matter; and
 - (7) The Appellant and the Respondent to be recalled and the decision and any orders consequential to it announced to both parties. Alternatively, where it considers it appropriate, the Appeal Board may decide not to announce its decision, but make it known at a later date, in writing. In any event, the Appeal Board shall publicise a written statement of its decision (see Regulation 8(b)(ix) below).
- (vi) The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.
- (vii) A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.
- (viii) The Appeal Board shall have power to:
- (1) allow or dismiss the appeal; or
 - (2) remit the matter for re-hearing by the Referees' Committee; or
 - (3) exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised; or
 - (4) make any further or other order considered appropriate, either generally, or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision. Any fee may be returned or forfeited, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Appeal Board, who shall also have the power to determine by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne.
- (ix) As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:
- (1) the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;
 - (2) whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
 - (3) the order(s) of the Appeal Board.

The written statement shall be signed and dated by the chair of the Appeal Board and be the conclusive record of the decision.

9. APPOINTMENTS

- (a) Registered Referees shall not officiate in any Competition, which is not sanctioned, or match in which unaffiliated clubs compete.
- (b) The “Order of Precedence” of appointments, whether as a Referee or Assistant Referee shall be as follows:
- (1) The FA Challenge Cup Competition and The FA Women’s Challenge Cup Competition (Fourth Round Proper onwards);
 - (2) The Premier League;
 - (3) EFL;
 - (4) WSL and The FA Women’s League Cup;
 - (5) The FA Challenge Trophy Competition;
 - (6) The FA Challenge Vase Competition;
 - (7) Affiliated Association Cup Competitions;
 - (8) WCH;
 - (9) Step 2 List;
 - (10) The FA Youth, FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions and The FA Women’s Challenge Cup (prior to Fourth Round Proper);
 - (11) Step 3/4 Leagues, the Women’s National League and Cup (Tier 3/4), Inter League Cup and FA Sunday Cup;
 - (12) Step 5/6 Leagues (including selected Step 7 divisions);
 - (13) Senior County Leagues (men’s game) and Regional Leagues (tier 5/6) (women’s game);
 - (14) Intermediate County League;
 - (15) County Junior Leagues (men’s and women’s); and
 - (16) All other competitions, including Youth Competitions.

** Affiliated Association appointments only take precedence over National League System, The FA Youth and FA County Youth Challenge Cup Competitions appointments if the appointment is in the Affiliated Association’s nominated Senior Cup Competition or in the Semi-final and/or Final of any other Affiliated Association Competition whether the appointment is as a Referee or an Assistant Referee.*

*** Fourth Officials where appointed do not form part of the Order of Precedence and usually do not take precedence over an active appointment.*

- (c) Referees must attend personal hearings when required to do so. At Step 3/4 Leagues or above Match Officials’ appointments already received, take precedence over requests to attend personal hearings. On receipt of notification of a personal hearing Referees must close the date with all appropriate competitions.
- (d) Where release from an appointment is required to enable a Referee to take a more senior appointment at least four days’ notice must be given to the relevant Affiliated Association or competition by the association or competition requesting the release. Where fewer than four days’ notice is given, The Association or Competition must obtain permission from the Affiliated Association or Competition for the Referee to be released.

- (e) Once The Association or an Affiliated Association has appointed a Match Official if, subsequently, the match is postponed, abandoned or results in a draw and the rearranged fixture is then scheduled to take place less than four complete days from the date of the original match, The Association or Affiliated Association appointment will take priority over any other appointment already accepted by the Referee from a competition lower in the order of precedence, unless The Association or Affiliated Association waive their right to the services of the match official so appointed.
- (f) “Fourth Officials” are appointed to certain rounds of FA Competitions, Premier League, EFL and National League matches and associated Competitions. The duties and responsibilities of the Fourth Official are detailed in the Laws of the Game and in the Competition Rules. Such appointments form part of the Order of Precedence within the Competitions listed above.
- (g) Reserve Assistant Referees may only be appointed in FA, Premier League and EFL Competitions, with the approval of The Association. They have no duties other than to replace an official who is unable to officiate.
- (h) With the exception of appointments made by The Association, Referees must obtain permission from their Parent Association (or County Association), or The Association in order to officiate in matches outside the United Kingdom.

10. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A Referee shall at all times act impartially. Where a Referee believes that there is a material interest conflicting with the duties and obligations of a Match Official and any appointment, then the Referee shall decline to act or officiate and declare it to the Appointing Authority (whose decision in relation to any dispute or difference in such matters shall be final and binding).

11. REFEREES' UNIFORMS

- (a) (i) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of The Association and Affiliated Associations must wear uniforms comprising a plain shirt which shall be almost entirely black with a white or black collar and black shorts. Socks will be black; the sock top will be black, white or the colour of the shirt or its collar. Affiliated Associations may give permission for Referees to wear non-black shirts in a Competition which the Affiliated Association organises and/or sanctions. The shirt(s) must be almost entirely of a single colour. Where a Competition appoints neutral assistant referees, only one non-black coloured shirt is permitted; the colour must be designated and competition rules must ensure that the match officials can wear black or the designated colour without clashing with the Players.
- (b) Headgear may be worn in extreme weather conditions. It must be plain black and not restrict the vision of the Match Official.
- (c) The following Competitions may be exempt from (a) above, on application to The Association subject to the conditions below:
 - WSL and WCH;
 - The Premier League;
 - EFL; and
 - Competitions with Step 1 List, Step 2 List, Step 3/4 Leagues and Step 5/6 Leagues Status.

Application must be submitted annually prior to 1 May for the following season. Approval will be considered only for shirts that are almost entirely of a single colour and where the competition confirms to The Association that all Match Officials will be provided with shirts, shorts and socks free of charge.

- (d) Match Officials officiating in FA Competition matches are required to wear the FIFA or Football Association badge (where awarded) or the badge of their Affiliated Association. No other competition badge should be worn.
- (e) Advertising and branding on Match Officials' uniforms must be in accordance with The Association's Kit & Advertising Regulations relating to advertising on the clothing of Players, Club Officials and Match Officials.

12. RETURNS

- (a) Annually, in accordance with the instructions of The Association issued from time to time, competitions shall provide to The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association lists of Match Officials used. Such lists shall include the marks (or other evaluation) awarded by clubs, and Observer reports where appropriate, during the specified period, together with any other information required.
- (b) Not later than the date decided by The Association, Affiliated Associations shall nominate suitable Referees for consideration by The Association for selection to the Step 3/4 Leagues Assistant Referees List.
- (c) Competitions that are required to administer fitness tests must submit the results to The Association and the Referee's Parent Affiliated Association.

13. CODES OF CONDUCT

Match Officials shall be bound by Codes of Conduct such as are instructed by The Association from time to time.

14. REPORTING MISCONDUCT

- (a) Referees must submit full details on all matters of misconduct, sendings off and cautions only to the appropriate Association or Affiliated Association responsible for administering misconduct and not to any other organisation or Competition.
- (b) Referees may include on the normal Competition match report forms the names and club details of those personnel reported for misconduct but must not include any details of the incident and for all on-field offences they can only report the name of the player/players cautioned/sent off, the club, the time of offence and the relevant FA offence code.
- (c) Should any match official be approached to supply any details, they should immediately report the matter to the Association or Affiliated Association.

GUIDE TO MARKING

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the Referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

MARK RANGE	COMMENT
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60 and below	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

Notes

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look at the game as a whole and not isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 60 or lower is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the Competition using the box provided on the marking form. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as possible.

HOW TO DECIDE ON THE REFEREE'S MARK

The following questions focus on the key areas of a Referee's performance. They are intended as an "aide memoire", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the Referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?

APPENDIX A

CLUB REPORT ON MATCH REFEREE

(Supply League)

Form to be completed after every match

Date: _____

Competition: _____

Home Club

Away Club

_____ V _____

Referee: _____

Referee's Performance:

Please tick appropriate box

a) Overall control

Disappointing Reasonable Good Excellent

b) Overall decision making

Disappointing Reasonable Good Excellent

c) Communication and Player Management

Disappointing Reasonable Good Excellent

Mark out of 100

Section 3: Additional Comments (Continue Overleaf if necessary)

If any area is marked "disappointing", or the mark awarded is 60 or less, detailed, constructive comments which could help improve the Referee's future performances are required.

Name (please print): _____

Position held in Club: _____ Signature: _____

Please return to: _____

within 48 hours of the match.

APPENDIX B

CLUB MARKING OF REFEREES

Both teams are required to award the Referee a mark in all matches on a scale 1-100 based on the following guide

Date: _____ Competition: _____
Home Club _____ Away Club _____
_____ V _____

Referee: _____

Overall control and decision making:

The mark must reflect the Referee's overall Level of control, accuracy of decision making and management of and communication with players. When deciding on a mark consideration should be given to such aspects of the Referee's performance as: impartiality, confidence, fitness, positioning, signalling, use of advantage, handling of major incidents.

A mark between 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'

A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected

Our club awards an overall mark of out of 100

When awarding a mark of 60 or less, an explanation must be provided in the box below to the League/Competition with comments which could help the Referee improve future performances.

(Signed): _____

(Secretary): _____

Club: _____

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- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's Level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee understand the players' problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling of the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

APPENDIX C

MEMORANDUM OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGISTERED REFEREES

Affiliated Associations must provide, as a minimum, the following for Referees administered by them:

Allocation to Leagues

The Association is responsible for the allocation of Referees promoted to, or serving on, the National Contributory Leagues List of Assistant Referees to a suitable Supply League on which to referee. The allocation of Referees to officiate as Assistant Referees in the recognised division of one Supply League only, in which teams from the Affiliated Association operate, is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association to ensure that local football is not deprived of Referees.

Referees successfully completing the Referee Course are to be advised in writing, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, of the leagues on which they may operate.

Appointments

Affiliated Associations make appointments to their individual Competitions. In addition, they are invited to make nominations in respect of FA Competitions at the request of The Association's Refereeing Department.

Benevolent Scheme

Affiliated Associations are encouraged to make available access to any Benevolent Scheme it runs to Referees. They may also access, on behalf of a Referee, The Football Association Benevolent Fund.

County Football Association Badge

The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees require Referees to wear the badge of the Affiliated Association who administers his registration on FA Competitions, where such a badge is available. This provides County identity for Match Officials when operating both within and outside their Affiliated Association boundary. Affiliated Associations should make the Affiliated Association badge available to Referees.

County Football Association Handbook

Affiliated Associations should provide, as a minimum, the County Cup Competition Rules, details of Club Secretaries and details of grounds/match venues.

General Advice

General advice and guidance on all football related matters should be communicated by the Affiliated Association to those Referees it administers.

In-Service Training

Referees at Level 4 and below are provided with in-service training by Affiliated Associations. In-service training for Referees in the promotion scheme is mandatory in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees and may be co-ordinated in conjunction with National Referee Managers. Other in-service training (i.e. Supply League Referees, Pre-Cup Final training, assessor training, etc) should be provided for Referees as appropriate. Funding may be accessed to meet some of the training and development needs.

Laws of the Game

All referees must be provided with a current edition of the Laws of the Game by their Parent Association and any Law amendment bulletin published by The Association.

Legal Advice

Affiliated Associations may assist in the provision of legal advice where appropriate to Referees. This could involve seeking advice from The Association on behalf of the Referee in certain circumstances.

Liaison with the National Referee Managers

Affiliated Associations should make every use of the services of the National Referee Managers in the support of its responsibilities for registered Referees as outlined in this Memorandum.

Licensed Referee Tutor Courses

Affiliated Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend Licensed Referee Tutor Courses in accordance with the criteria notified by The Association from time to time. The Association makes financial provision for these courses.

Mentor Scheme

Affiliated Associations are required to provide Mentor support for Referees undertaking the Referee Course (previously the Basic Referee Course). It is recognised that mentoring is an aid to retention and Affiliated Associations are encouraged to extend the service to other Referees wherever possible.

Monitoring of Financial Provision

Affiliated Associations are required to develop and produce a County Development Plan linked to the National Game Strategy which details key initiatives and targets to support recruitment, retention and development of Referees as well as offering details on the financial support provided by The Association. Returns are to be submitted to The Association upon request.

Nominations to the Contributory League List

Affiliated Associations are required to nominate eligible and suitable Referees to join the Contributory League Assistant Referees List from their Senior County Referees on request from The Association's Refereeing Department. Those Referees who are nominated for consideration to the Contributory League Assistant Referees List must have successfully completed the required fitness test as determined by The Association's Referees' Committee from time to time.

Personal Accident Insurance

Affiliated Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for Referees.

PGMOL

The Professional Game Match Officials Ltd is responsible for officials operating in the Premier League, EFL and Panel Leagues.

Promotion and Assessment Scheme

Affiliated Associations are responsible for the promotion of Referees up to Level 5 - Senior County Referee, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, by ensuring that Referees are active at the appropriate Level and are regularly assessed. The promotion assessment scheme is part funded by The Association. Senior County Referees and below, outside the promotion scheme, who are administered by their Parent Association should be regularly assessed for development purposes.

Public Liability Insurance

A minimum of £5 million, as recommended by The Association, cover for public liability insurance.

Recruitment and Training of New Referees

The recruitment and training of new Referees is an important area which Affiliated Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. The Association supports this with provision of financial and material support.

Referee Discipline

The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees devolve the responsibility for Referee discipline, of those Referees not operating on the National List of Contributory League Officials or above, to the Referee's Parent Association. Where an alleged offence is committed by a Referee whilst acting as a Match Official in any capacity (on or off the field) the matter will be dealt with by a Referees' Committee or Commission thereof, except where the charge relates to FA Rule E. In this and all other circumstances the Referee will be dealt with as any other Participant. Referees should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or indiscipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Affiliated Association.

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Registration

Registrations for Referees must be in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees as amended by The Association from time to time. Affiliated Associations will collect the National Registration fee and, where appropriate, any Associate Referee fee levied by them for Referees administered by another Affiliated Association. Except where determined otherwise, Affiliated Associations will be responsible for the provision of CRC and any other checks on Referees as decided by The Association.

Safeguarding Children Training

In accordance with the Rules of The Association, every participant in a position of trust e.g. coach, referee, medic, welfare officer etc... is required to undergo Safeguarding Children Training. The Association's Referees Department and Equality and Child Protection Unit will provide appropriate guidance.

Schools of Excellence and Referee Academies

Affiliated Associations are strongly encouraged to include a School of Excellence (or Referee Academy) for referees.

Transfers

Affiliated Associations are responsible for ensuring that Referees who move to another administrative area are notified to the receiving Association. On receipt of that notification, the receiving Affiliated Association should ensure that the Referee is made aware of the refereeing activities in the County.