



## **Basic Referees Training Course Information**

This is an entry level course that enables you to qualify as a football referee. The course provides an introduction to the laws of the game as well as developing the practical skills you will need to be a referee.

### **Age and Fitness**

You must be at least 14 years of age to attend a referees' course and have a reasonable degree of fitness as there is the need to referee matches as part of the course. There is no upper age limit to becoming a referee.

### **Pre-course study**

Once you have completed an application form, paid the course fee and been accepted onto the course you will receive a pre-course study pack. The pack requires you to complete some work before you attend the first course session and it is most important that you do this. Early in the course there will be an assessment of your basic knowledge of the laws of the game and refereeing and you must pass this assessment in order to carry on to complete the course.

### **Course Structure**

The course is structured as five modules.

#### ***Module 1- Introduction***

This module will introduce you to some key aspects in the following:

- Laws of the Game
- The role of the Referee
- Consider the skills you will need to control a game of football.

Module 1 also includes completion of a multiple-choice question paper to assess your knowledge of the Laws of the Game following the Pre-Course Study.

#### ***Module 2- Practical Element***

Practical elements of the course will provide you with an introduction to:

- Warming up and cooling down activities
- Positioning & movement at both set pieces & in open play
- Managing game situations
- Signals & communication techniques

- FA Safeguarding Children workshop (included in the course programme)

### ***Module 3 – Examination***

We use two different examinations to establish your practical knowledge and your knowledge of theory. These are:

- 1) A multiple-choice questions paper.
- 2) A DVD based exercise which includes demonstrations of match situations on which you answer multiple-choice questions.

The pass mark for the examinations is 75% overall.

If you are unsuccessful in the examinations you can take them again after three months.

### ***Module 4 - Refereeing***

Once you have completed the tutored part of the course and have passed the examinations you then go on to referee a minimum of six 11 v 11 matches. We will contact the referees secretaries of cup, league and youth competitions who can offer you suitable refereeing appointments. Alternatively you could choose to referee matches at a school or for other youth or adult organisations.

Don't worry, you are not left to fend for yourself at this stage as we will appoint an experienced qualified referee as a mentor for you – someone who will support you with friendly advice and who can watch you during some of the games and give you feedback on your matches.

### ***Module 5 – Qualification and The Next Steps***

Once you have attended modules 1 to 3, passed the examinations and completed module 4 (your six initial matches) you are almost there ! You then only need to attend module 5 - a final session designed to prepare you for life as a fully qualified referee and to advise you of the next steps that you can take to develop your skills and knowledge as a referee.

This final session lasts around 2 to 3 hours and includes presentation of your certificate from the Football Association showing that you are now a qualified referee.

### **Standard and Condensed Courses and Course Venues**

Our courses either run as 'standard' or as 'condensed' courses.

For standard courses sessions are held one evening per week over a period of 8 weeks which include modules one to three. Each session lasts for around two hours and the examinations (module 3) are held during the final session.

Condensed course sessions take place on two consecutive weekday evenings (two hour sessions) and two consecutive Sundays (full day sessions from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm). The examinations (module 3) are held during the final session (the second Sunday).

Course venues vary and we try to choose venues which have parking facilities and are easily accessible on public transport.

### **Criminal Records Bureau ('CRB') Disclosure Application**

If you are 18 years old or over 18 you will have to complete a CRB disclosure application. You will need to do this even if you have already completed an application in some other capacity (for example if you have one associated with your employment or with some other sport) as CRB certificates are not currently 'portable'. The only exception will be if you have an existing CRB check which was completed with The FA CRB Unit.

We can help you to make your CRB disclosure application during the course by verifying your personal identification documents so that you do not need to send them away with your application. We will also help you to complete the form so that the whole process runs smoothly.

The cost of completing your CRB disclosure application is included in the course fee.

### **Safeguarding Children**

If you are 16 years old or over 16 you will also need to attend a Safeguarding Children workshop. The workshop is normally included within the course classroom sessions and the cost of the workshop is included in the course fees.

If you are 14 or 15 years old you must complete The FA Awareness Programme on Safeguarding Children. You can do this by watching a DVD, provided as part of the course, then completing a questionnaire which we will send in to The FA.

### **Course Costs**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Course Fee</b>	<b>Annual Registration Fee</b>	<b>CRB check</b>	<b>Safeguarding Children training</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>18 or over</b>	£30*	£15	£12	£25	<b>£82</b>
<b>16 and 17</b>	£30*	£15	n/a	£25	<b>£70</b>
<b>14 and 15</b>	£10*	£15	n/a	£10	<b>£35</b>

*\* This element of the cost is refunded to you by The FA once you have completed the course.*

The course costs include:

- All course materials
  - Laws of the Game book
  - Pre-course study pack
  - Course folder with inserts
  - Booklets containing practical advice on refereeing

- A minimum of 12 hours teaching delivered by FA Qualified Instructors and Tutors. All Tutors and Instructors are CRB checked and have attended the FA's Safeguarding Children workshop.

### **What You Need To Provide**

- Writing materials – pens, pencils and papers for additional notes.
- Suitable footwear and clothing for any outdoor sessions that may take place.
- A referees' kit for the matches that you will referee. We will advise you on purchasing kit and we have secured competitive deals with major kit suppliers to keep this cost reasonable. You will need:
  - Shirt
  - Shorts
  - Socks
  - Whistle
  - red & yellow cards (we will supply these free of charge)
  - notebook with pencil.
  - boots/footwear
  - a watch
- A commitment to attend all the course sessions and complete the qualification.

### **Message from Mike Brown, AFA Chief Executive**

Our aim is to provide a high quality course which is interesting and fun while at the same time provides you with a challenge. When you have completed it you will have an excellent skills and knowledge base enabling you to referee football matches with confidence and to look forward to enjoying refereeing over many seasons to come.

How far you take your interest and development as a football referee will be for you to decide once you have qualified. I wish you all the best whatever direction you decide to go in as a referee.