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# BECOMING AN RFU REFEREE



MIND  
BODY &  
SOUL

[www.rfu.com/community](http://www.rfu.com/community)

# BECOMING AN RFU REFEREE



## BECOMING AN RFU REFEREE

### Foreword

One should never forget that Rugby Union is a players' game. However, the old adage "without a referee there will be no game" remains true. Refereeing is about creating a safe and enjoyable environment in which players can express themselves and this can be tremendously rewarding. Whether at mini, junior or senior level, at club, school or university, the referee has a crucial role to play in enabling the game to be enjoyed by all participants.

There are a wealth of opportunities for referees and, whilst starting off may seem like a daunting prospect, you can be assured of receiving excellent support, guidance and training from the Rugby Football Union and, if you wish to progress, through your local Referees Society. These pages contain detail of what you can expect.

Good luck with your refereeing.

Richard Glynn-Jones  
RFU Referee Manager

## GETTING STARTED

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November 2006 sees the introduction of the RFU's Entry Level Referee Award (ELRA), a 3 Stage award designed to provide new referees with the core skills to be able to referee rugby union.

If you choose to join a Referees Society, then you will be required to complete all 3 Stages of the ELRA. If, however, you wish to remain only within your own school, club or university, then you need only complete Stages 1 and 2, which consider the following aspects of refereeing:

- Laws of the Game
- Management and Control
- Problem Solving
- Refereeing the Key Phases of the Game
- Positioning and Communication
- Child Protection.



Crucial to your learning is that a significant part of both Stages is practically based for example you will have an opportunity to observe refereeing in practice, whilst demonstrating your own skills on the field of play.

Details of courses being delivered nationwide are available at the Refereeing section of [www.rfu.com/community](http://www.rfu.com/community) or you can also contact a member of the Referee Development Team, whose details can be found later in this publication.

## WHY REFEREE?

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- To remain active in the sport following injury or retirement
- To assist players to enjoy their game
- To take advantage of opportunities to travel extensively
- To make new, long lasting friends in the Game
- The exhilaration of the mental and physical competition
- A sense of achievement and the satisfaction of providing an invaluable service
- To enjoy it!

## JOINING A REFEREES SOCIETY

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There are in excess of 40 Referees Societies nationwide. Becoming a member will ensure that your development is managed in an appropriate and structured manner. You will be provided with regular appointments at a variety of matches and will have access to regular training meetings, at which various elements of the Game will be considered.



By joining a Referees Society, you will have the opportunity to get to know other referees with a wide variety of experience. You will gain much from talking to them and will soon see just how much support and encouragement is available to you as you embark on your refereeing career. A member of the Referee Development Team will be able to provide you with the contact details of your local Referees Society, which can also be found at [www.rfu.com/community](http://www.rfu.com/community).

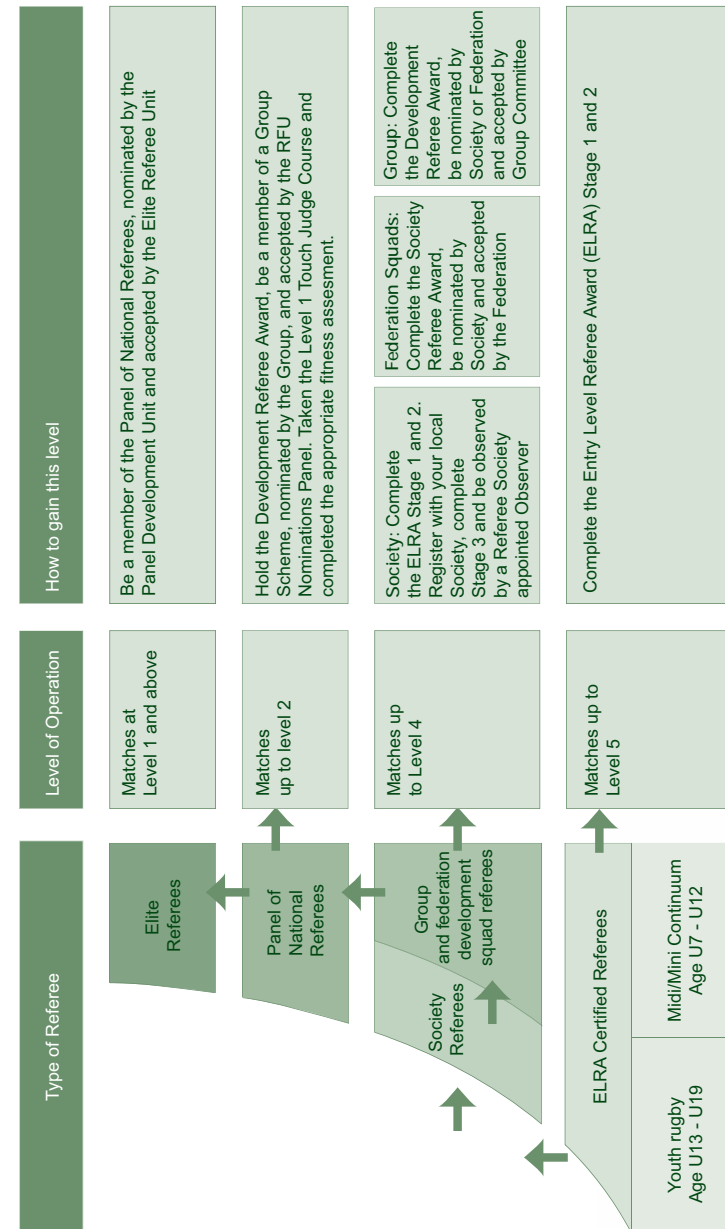
# THE REFEREEING PATHWAY

Whilst we all wish to be as good a referee as possible, many are happy to remain active at the lower levels of the Game.

If, however, you wish to progress as a referee, then it is essential to join a Referees Society. You will be observed by an experienced Adviser during your first five matches, after which you will receive regular assessment designed to improve your performance. As you develop, you will referee in different areas of the country and you may even find yourself refereeing abroad.

As you demonstrate potential, you will progress to a Federation development squad, which consists of the best referees from a group of Referee Societies. From there, you will be appointed to one of the four regional 'Groups', at which time you will be appointed to better quality games and your performance will come under closer scrutiny.

For between five and ten referees nationally every year, promotion to the RFU National Panel of Referees represents the next step. At that point, you will join the best 60 referees in the country and will be appointed to National League fixtures. The diagram opposite outlines the Refereeing Pathway.



## THE NEXT STEP

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Visit [www.rfu.com/community](http://www.rfu.com/community) to access an ELRA course, or contact a member of the Referee Development Team using the details below:

### Midlands Region

**Alan Biggs**

**07894 783372**

**[alanbiggs@rfu.com](mailto:alanbiggs@rfu.com)**

### North Region

**Paul Renton**

**0870 1431115**

**[paulrenton@rfu.com](mailto:paulrenton@rfu.com)**

### South East Region

**Ed Turnill**

**07894 783373**

**[edturnill@rfu.com](mailto:edturnill@rfu.com)**

### South West Region

**Nigel Cowley**

**07894 783378**

**[nigelcowley@rfu.com](mailto:nigelcowley@rfu.com)**

