



**LondonFA**

# REFEREE COURSES

## LEARNER INFORMATION PACK

**SEASON 2024/25**



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE GAME**



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# WELCOME

## ***INTERESTED BUT NOT YET BOOKED THE COURSE***

We are delighted to know you are interested in attending and ask that you use this guide to help inform you about what is involved in becoming a Referee. You may wish to complete some of the suggested tasks to prepare you for when you book your place – this will save lots of time later and allow you to start Refereeing much sooner.

## ***ALREADY BOOKED THE COURSE***

If you have already booked your spot in the FA Referee Course, this guide will walk you through each step, providing detailed instructions on fulfilling all pre-course requirements before your first workshop. We kindly request that all participants, including those planning to book the course and those who have already booked (including parents/carers), thoroughly read all sections of this booklet.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

To enrol onto a London FA Referee Course, you are required to permanently live in London. London FA catchment area is 12 miles from Charing Cross. If you fall outside this catchment area, you will be removed from the course and directed to your nearest County FA.



# WHAT TO EXPECT

The FA Referee Course is designed to equip Referees with key skills and knowledge they will need to be able to referee grassroots matches safely and effectively.

The content of the course is for those who want to referee 9v9 and/or 11v11 football. Please note that learners must be 14 years of age before undertaking the course, including completion of pre-course online learning.

To complete the course and become a qualified match official there will be several sections that need to be completed including:

- FA Guide to the Laws of the Game (must be completed before starting face to face training).
- Completion of FA Safeguarding qualification and DBS checks (DBS checks for those aged 16 and over only) – both must be completed prior to officiating any games and FA safeguarding training must be complete prior to face-to-face workshop.
- Attendance at face-to-face training consisting of three workshops.
- Attendance to Trainee Referee Development Day.
- Officiating of five qualifying games.

Only once all the above sections have been done will you be qualified as a Referee.







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# COURSE CONTENT

## ONLINE TRAINING PRIOR TO FACE TO FACE



Prior to your face-to-face course, spend some time brushing up on the Laws of the Game and ensure you have started your Safeguarding prior to completing using the links below:

- [\*\*About the Laws of the Game\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Laws of Game Online Course\*\*](#)

You MUST ensure you have completed the online safeguarding module:

- [\*\*Safeguarding For All / England Football Learning\*\*](#)

Sin bins have been added to the use of Referees at their discretion in order to combat dissent by word or action.

- [\*\*Sin Bin\*\*](#)

## PARENT/CARER FAN LINKED (U18 ONLY)



All U18 Referee are required to link their FA Number (FAN) to that of their parent/guardian. Without this you will be unable to register as a Referee following the course.

The first step is for the parent/carer to sign into their [FA MyAccount](#) using their email address and password. Guidance on signing in can be found [here](#).

Once signed in, you will need to ensure you are linked to your child/youth Referee. This can be found underneath the 'Individuals' header. If you cannot see your child/youth Referee linked, please contact [refereeing@londonfa.com](mailto:refereeing@londonfa.com) including the child's FAN or if unknown their name, DOB and address and we can link accounts

**IMPORTANT** – Every FAN must have a unique email address and therefore if a Referee FAN holds their parent/guardian email this will need to be changed in order for the parent/guardian to create and/or link their FAN account.

If you are unsure if you have a FAN or not then contact:  
[refereeing@londonfa.com](mailto:refereeing@londonfa.com).



# DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS)



All those wishing to become a Referee who are aged 16 and over, must undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to being able to undertake any Referee duties. Without a DBS you are unable to Referee any games under any circumstances and therefore we ask you to begin the process immediately to avoid delays once the course is complete.

To avoid delays we strongly recommend that you begin the process of completing your DBS checks before attending the face to face training, although ID checks can be done during the course.

Candidates aged 16 & above.

- Must complete a DBS check.
- The FA Enhanced DBS is criminal record check to ensure you can work with U18s in football.
- The DBS Check process must be "submitted to organisation" before you attend DAY 1 of the course.
- On Day 1, you must bring the SAME 3 DOCUMENTS that you put in your application which will then be verified by the course tutor (e.g., passport, driving licence, bank statement and or bill)

Guidance for Referees to complete an FA DBS Check can be found [HERE](#).



# FACE TO FACE TRAINING



You will be guided through approximately 11 hours of face-to-face training by our team of Referee Tutors, with a mix of classroom and practical activity on the pitch. Learners will each get the opportunity to referee in a variety of game-based scenarios with other learners in order to practice the content developed from the Online Laws of the Game Guide and classroom content.

Below is an outline of what to expect from the face-to-face training (used as a guide only and subject to change based on course structure).

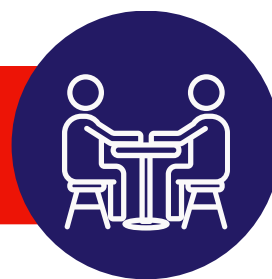
## **SESSION 1:** 3 hours (theory only)

- Welcome & Introduction
- Being an effective Referee
- Recognising foul challenges
- Rapport & relationships
- Referee Support

## **SESSION 2:** 8 hours (theory & practical)

- Communication
- Restarts & set-pieces (1)
- Positioning in open play
- Caution & sending off procedures
- Managing players
- Handball
- Restarts & set-pieces (2)
- Assistant Refereeing
- Dealing with inappropriate behaviour
- Looking after yourself
- Offside

# REFEREE DEVELOPMENT EVENT



We have created a platform for all new referees to ensure that they have understand all parts of the role, discipline, safeguarding, competitions and their own referee development and progression.

Our New Referee Development Day is for any referee who has completed the qualification in the 23-24 season, this evening will give you an insight into the next steps for refereeing within London. This event will be hosted 3 months after you have completed the course and you will be registered to an event during the booking process.

Our Referee Development, Cups and Competitions, Safeguarding and Discipline teams will present on some important information for your journey and ongoing development this includes but is not limited to the progression opportunities, development events, information on leagues and games as well as the reports and measures that are put in place to protect you as match officials.





## UNDERTAKING FIVE MATCHES



Once learners have completed their face-to-face training, they will be required to undertake five matches; these matches need to be 9v9/11v11 in order to practice the skills learnt from their course.

You will be asked to provide 5 dates you are available to do games and we will try to get you games. Also, you'll be provided some information on leagues you can contact also. These five matches will need to be completed within 3 months of Day 2 of your Referee course.





# AFTER YOUR COURSE



Once you have completed the online laws of the game and the face to face training, you will need to complete 5 matches as a Referee with a grassroots club.

## **AFA & LONSAR**

All new referees will be enrolled in the Local Referee Association to provide essential support and networking opportunities. The association facilitates a blend of online and face-to-face meetings, where seasoned officials are eager to assist, mentor, advise, and nurture our new officials.

Following the course, participants will receive information directly from the Local Referee Association. Being a part of the association comes with various benefits, including insurance coverage, ongoing support, valuable networking opportunities, continuous learning, and active engagement with multiple stakeholders such as leagues, CFAs, referees, clubs, and more.

We believe this affiliation will enhance your experience and development as a referee. If you have any questions or need further details, feel free to reach out.



## REFEREE REGISTRATION

Referee registration is something all officials regardless of age or experience must complete. Without registration you should not officiate matches and will not be able to represent London or be eligible for promotion or other development opportunities.

Please note that registration is free for Referees registering for the first time following their Referee course.

## CERTIFICATE

Once you have completed your 5 games and attend one of the Referee development days, we will sign you off as a qualified referee and you'll be emailed your Referee certificate and your FAN will be updated.





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## **LONDON FA CONTACT US**

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