

# THE FA NEW REFEREES COURSE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



The start of 2016 sees a fresh and pioneering new approach to the training of new referees, with it being primarily focussed on the practical training and learning of the skills required to referee a 9v9 or 11v11 football match.

The learning of the practical elements of refereeing re: their application and understanding are facilitated on the course by FA Referee Tutors, with the candidate taking a greater responsibility to learn the Laws of the Game through distance learning prior to, during and after the practical sessions of the course.

This new and enhanced approach to training new football referees will, without doubt, better prepare the candidate for the role as a referee.

The following 'Frequently Asked Questions & Essential Information' is a brief guide to how this will be delivered and how it affects you, the referee candidate.

### **Are there any age limits re: the course?**

Anyone aged 14 or over can become a referee. There is no upper age limit but candidates need to be able to fully participate in practical sessions. Until you reach the age of 16, you will only be able to referee games involving children at least 1 year younger than yourself.

### **What is the first step?**

The first step is to attend an **Essex FA** Introduction to Refereeing Evening. This is a two-hour introduction evening where you will be guided through the refereeing experience looking at all formats of the game and the opportunities available. If you decide to start your refereeing journey here the 'Referee Course' (11v11 or 9v9 football) will only be a few weeks away.

We strongly recommend that parents of all candidates under the age of 17 attend this Introduction to Refereeing Evening to gain a full understanding of the commitment required to complete the course.

### **How much does this County FA Introduction to Refereeing Evening cost?**

The fee for this evening session is **£10.00**

### **How do I find the dates and enrol on this session?**

To receive details relating to the CFA's Get into Refereeing sessions (Unit1) you will be required to register your details via the online interest form which can be accessed via this link

<http://www.essexfa.com/referees>

### **When do I register and pay to join the course?**

Shortly after the Introductory Session (normally the next day), a link to the booking site will be emailed to enable the candidate to book and pay for their place on the course.

This information will be sent to you by the Essex FA Referees Department whose contact details are shown below; **all enquiries related to the FA Referees Course** should be directed to

#### **James Lisher**

##### **Referee Development Officer**

(W) 01245 393097 | (Email) [James.Lisher@EssexFA.com](mailto:James.Lisher@EssexFA.com)

#### **Rhys Elmer**

##### **Referee & Welfare Administrator**

(W) 01245 393093 | (Email) [Rhys.Elmer@EssexFA.com](mailto:Rhys.Elmer@EssexFA.com)

Once the booking stage has been completed and payment received, pre-course learning material will be sent for study and completion prior to attending the practical training elements of the course.

### **How much does the course cost?**

The current cost of the course is **£125.00**

### **What will I get for my money?**

In addition to the services of FA Referee Tutors, the following is included in the price:

- A copy of the latest FIFA Laws of the Game booklet
- An interactive DVD on the Laws of the Game
- A pre-course study programme (**Unit 1**)
- FA Referee course materials
- FA Safeguarding Children training
- FA 'Respect' training
- FA registration fee for one season
- A referee whistle & Lanyard
- A Match Record Pad
- A set of red/yellow cards
- County FA will confirm which league you have been allocated onto to complete your 5 games prior to or at the successful completion of Unit 4
- A list of League contacts (upon completion of Unit 5)
- A certificate of qualification... following an initial five 11v11 or 9v9 games and the successful passing of a final examination on the FIFA Laws of the Game
- FA Referee badge
- The services of the Essex FA Referee Development Team & FA Referee Mentors

### **Will I need to undertake FA Safeguarding Children Training?**

All referees have to undertake FA Safeguarding Children training before they will be able to register with The FA as a referee. You will complete this either before or during the course and certification will last for 3 years. The cost of this is included in the course fee.

Candidates under the age of 17 will be required to complete the Online FA Safeguarding Children training. Candidates aged 17+ will be required to attend the FA Safeguarding Children Workshop.

### **Will I need to undertake FA CRC (formerly known as a FA CRB) check?**

All referees aged 16 years or over must undertake an FA CRC enhanced check. This is a simple on-line process, which can be completed prior to the commencement of the course. Certification last for 3 years. The cost of this is included in the course fee.

### **How is the rest of the course structured?**

After completion of the pre-course study programme (Unit 1), you will move onto Unit 2 of the overall course, which contains the following sessions:

#### **1) Practical Referee Training - Unit 2:**

This is an all-day session so you will need to come prepared with food and drinks etc., plus come suitably dressed; a change of footwear is essential as are shin-guards. It will involve learning how to referee outside on the field of play and involve some classroom work. You will be given the learning resources and all necessary equipment (whistle, red/yellow cards etc.) at this session but you will need to bring a pen and pad to take notes. At the end of this day, you will have the opportunity to referee part of a game among your group of candidates.

#### **2) Fouls and Misconduct Training - Unit 3:**

This is a 2-hour session, which will include 'Recognising Challenges' and the Misconduct procedure.

#### **3) Practical Referee Training and Evaluation - Unit 4:**

This is a second all-day session, which will be mostly completed outside on the field of play. The second part of the day includes a practical evaluation where you will have another opportunity to referee part of a game among the group. The evaluation will include staged scenarios, which will provide you with opportunity to consolidate your learning from the previous sessions and receive immediate feedback.

**Provided you attain the minimum standard required when evaluated, you will be sanctioned to operate as an FA Level 9 (trainee) referee.**

#### **4) Experience & Mentored Unit - Unit 5:**

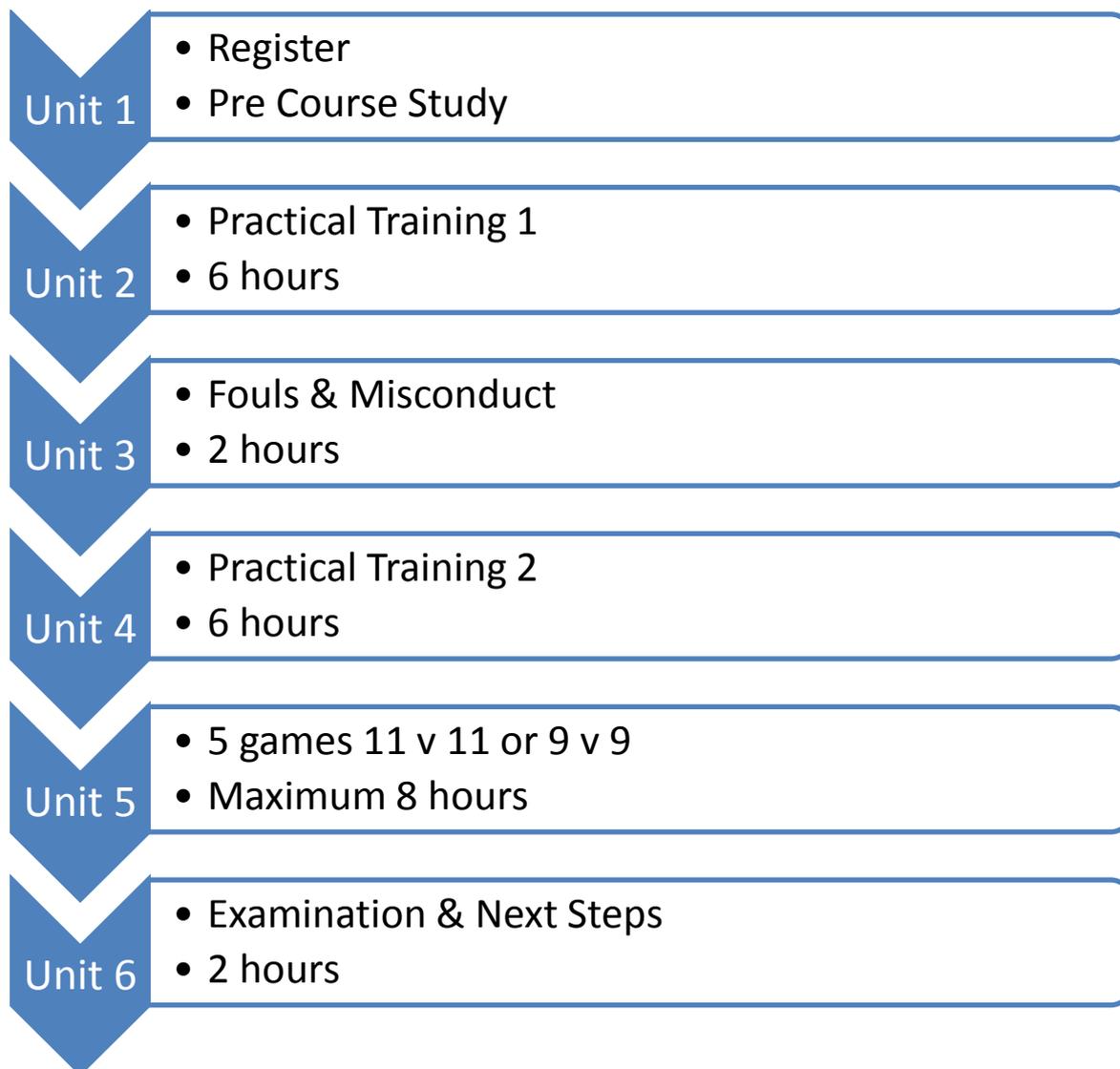
Having successfully graduated from the first four units of the training course, you will now officiate in a minimum of five (5) games of football within either 9v9 or 11v11 football. During these games we aim to provide you with continued support through the use of our FA Referee Mentors. A record of these games is compiled as evidence of your development. During this period, in addition to gaining practical experience, you will have time to learn and revise the Laws of the Game thoroughly before returning to complete the final unit of the course.

#### **5) FA Examination & Call Back Unit - Unit 6:**

This is a 2-hour session and the final part of the course. It involves the successful completion of the FA Examination of the Laws of the Game (a multiple-choice examination of approx. 30 minutes duration), and an opportunity to review and discuss your learning experiences from your games thus far as a trainee referee. You will be rewarded with an FA Referee Certificate of Qualification along with an FA Referee badge when successful completion of the course is attained.

Unit 6 can only be attended and completed when a minimum of five (5) games as an FA Level 9 (trainee) referee have been refereed. The County FA will advise you of the dates of the Unit 6 sessions throughout the season and these can be planned in with your course tutor. It is possible to attend an alternative date either earlier or later if necessary but this final session must be completed within 4 calendar months of the date of the first Practical Training Session at the start of Unit 2.

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## **What level of referee will I be at the end of the course?**

Successful completion of all six units of The FA Referee Course sees the candidate move from FA Level 9 (trainee) to FA Level 8 referee (if aged 14 or 15) or FA Level 7 referee (if/when aged 16 or over).

**Where will I referee my first FIVE games?**

Appointment of these first five games is crucial to the course and for your self-development as a referee. These will be communicated to you by your County FA Referees Department either prior to or during the course itself.

**Do I have to re-register to referee each season?**

Yes, you will need to re-register with **Essex FA** each season. This is an on-line process and currently costs £20 (about one match fee). Your first year's registration is included in the course fee. Guidance on the process on re-registration will be emailed to referees when the registration for the following year opens.

**What support will I receive from Essex FA?**

**Essex FA** provides a strong support network for newly qualified referees. In addition to being able to access our mentor scheme early on, you will be invited to attend various development sessions throughout the season. You can also contact the County FA Referee Development Team at any time should you have any issues or questions.

**How do I move up the refereeing ladder?**

**Essex FA** is keen to see and help its referees develop and progress to achieve their full potential and as such, have a structured promotion pathway for referees. The basic requirement is that you must have refereed a minimum of 20 games prior to seeking to be promoted. Applications to **Essex FA** for promotion are made during January of each year. Further details can be found within the Referees Section of the county FA website [www.essexfa.com/referees](http://www.essexfa.com/referees)

**REFEREES DEPARTMENT  
ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.**