

Procedures to Become an RFU Referee

Dorset & Wilts Society of RFU Referees

(29 September 2009 revise)

Step 1 - Training – ELRA 1 & 2 (skip to Step 2 if you have already done this, or have qualified with Foundation Courses 1 and 2 within the last few years and have refereed since)

Go to the RFU Home website on <www.rfu.com> and click on the Taking Part, Referee, Courses, Entry Level Referee Award (ELRA) buttons for the ELRA course calendar and entry form links. Find a course which suits you on the course list – you are able to attend courses in other districts if you wish.

Candidates can apply by mail, e-mail on the RFU Home website or by telephone for the next ELRA course in the relevant district. Do read the instructions carefully. Once you have found your course, download an application form from the same site and send it to <lindsaypiper@rfu.com> along with the required payment details.

Note the requirement for 10 days notice before a course to enable documentation to be sent to you. The fee is £50, which covers both sessions:-

- 2 full days (9:30 - 4:00)
- Programme covers:
 - Referee Roles, Responsibilities and Attitudes
 - Refereeing key phases of the game
 - Judgement and Materiality
 - Laws of the game
 - Safety
 - Communication and Positioning
 - Problem Areas/Theory into Practice
 - Game Management and Control
- Delivered through classroom, discussion and practical elements

Complete the ELRA 1 & 2 Course and await your certificate.

Step 2 - Register with Dorset & Wilts Society (for ELRA 3 if you are ELRA 1 and 2 qualified)

You may wish to remain only within your own school, club, college or university, in which case you need only complete ELRA 1 & 2 in Step One above. If you wish to join the Society, then complete the Society Application Form available on the Society website at dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk/home.htm and return it to the Membership Secretary of the Society, Colin Parks, 36 Bryony Gardens, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4TR, or by email: cparks52@yahoo.co.uk

You will be required to referee 5 games, one of which will be watched by an adviser who will certify your competence to referee, to complete the ELRA 3 and final phase of qualification. You therefore also need to:-

- Send a monthly availability return (available on the D&W home website) by email to the Society Appointer, Keith Peall, at <krpeall@yahoo.co.uk> as soon as possible after ELRA 1 & 2 are completed. Include mid-week, Saturday and Sunday games. His telephone number is 07796 938687.

- Inform Stephen Dowse on <dowse@sdowse.fsnet.co.uk>, the Grading/Advising Officer (he is also our Chairman) of your requirement for an adviser/coach for at least one of your five ELRA 3 games. He is also on 07714 203209. He will allocate one for you, informing the Recruitment Officer. The adviser will contact you arrange the watching, advising and reporting process. For already qualified and graded referees, the adviser will provide confirmation of their level, competence and development needs. If you are a Service referee and you are able to officiate additionally on Wednesdays, you need to log in with Stephen Dowse, who is additionally the CSS and ARURS regional Appointment and Grading Secretary.

Step 3 – Further Development

You are largely responsible thereafter for your own self-critical development, but the Training Officer (see below) and allocated adviser are always available for specific help and guidance. Monthly meetings are arranged at which vital aspects of refereeing are presented and discussed. You should also expect to be watched, advised and graded at least once a season by your own allocated adviser. The Whistling Bustard newsletter contains gems of information for training and development, as well as vital Society administration detail.

For those who have been refereeing for about two years or more, and who are generally graded at Levels 8 to 12, the RFU has produced an updated Continuous Referee Development Award (CRDA). This is based on a number of separate modules, covering all aspects of refereeing; some modules may be done by distance learning, others in a classroom, led by a tutor. The classroom modules will be covered both on specific days, and at monthly training meetings. The award is not intended either to be completed in one bite, nor as a pre-requirement for upgrading. The RFU is developing an online assessment for each module, for you to complete in your own time. The whole award may be done at your own pace, and may take two years to complete.

Useful Contacts

- **D&W SRFUR Recruitment/Retention Officer, Robin Miller:- (01747) 854765 or <robin.miller4@btinternet.com>**
- **RFU RefDevO, Nigel Cowley:- 07894 783378 or <nigelcowley@rfu.com> (for ELRA)**
- **D&W SRFUR Training Officer, Dave Masters on (01264) 790035 or <davidmasters77@hotmail.com>**
- **Website contacts:-**
 - **RFU:- <<http://www.rfu.com>>**
 - **<dorsetandwiltsrefs.org.uk/home.htm>** – all Society contacts appear on the Home Page. Also see past and current copies of the Whistling Bustard newsletter, and dates/locations of monthly meetings. The site contains appointments, monthly availability forms, and expense forms (you are entitled to 30p per mile from 1 August 2008) under the “Refereeing” link. Note that your annual £5 subscription (to cover towards insurance) is deducted from your pre-Christmas expenses claim form. You submit a second expenses form in April/ May at the season’s end.