



6th January 2015

Dear All

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Positive New Year for 2015, which already looks like it will offer some great opportunities and challenges, both pre, during and post Rugby World Cup 2015.

For the first send out of 2015, I have highlighted a couple of areas for clarification and outlined the details for the current award courses for Becoming a Referee. If you can, please ensure your Referee Society websites reflect these changes.

Law 3.10 – Temporary Replacement

Provides detail of a Law Amendment Trial – Head Injury Assessment (HIA)

This trial is ONLY for tournaments and matches approved by the Union or Rugby body having jurisdiction and with trained healthcare professionals, a temporary replacement may be used for a player who has a head injury where the diagnosis is unclear.

The use of HIA has not currently been sanctioned for RFU competitions at Level 2 and below.

Law 8 - Advantage

If the referee is playing a penalty advantage to RED and RED want to take the penalty, that team can ask the referee to blow for the offence. As soon as the referee blows his whistle, the RED team can take a quick tap as long as it is taken from the correct mark; namely where the offence took place not where the referee is.

If a RED player deliberately knocks on to stop an advantage being played, then RED cannot then take a quick tap.

RFU Referee Award Courses

Becoming A Referee

Why referee?

There are a whole host of reasons why you might take up the whistle: to remain active in the sport following injury or retirement, to make new and lasting friends within the game, or to gain a sense of achievement by providing an invaluable service to players, coaches and spectators alike. Whatever the reason, refereeing is challenging, rewarding and above all, can be great fun.

It's easy to become a referee and start refereeing!

The first step is to attend one of the two courses listed below, and you're on your way. The minimum age to become a rugby union referee is 14.

If you wish to start refereeing children.....

You need to attend a course called; **Level 1 – Refereeing Children**. This course is designed to provide new referees with the core skills to be able to referee rugby union safely and confidently. It takes 3 hours and is a mixture of practical and classroom based activities.

If you wish to start refereeing the 15-a-side game...

You need to attend a course called; **Level 2 – Refereeing the 15-a-side game**. This course is for new and developing referees wanting to referee the 15-a-side game and will equip delegates with the skills and confidence to do so effectively. It takes 12 hours and is a mixture of practical and classroom based activities.

What next?

If you need further advice on how to start refereeing or choosing an appropriate course, please contact a member of the [RFU Match Official Development and Area Training Team](#) (PDF 204kB). However if you are ready to get going, go to the Englandrugby.com [online course booking system](#), which allows you to search by course type, region, postcode or date before booking and paying for your course.

We hope that this helps to ensure more timely communication and welcome any feedback you have on this process together with any ways in which we could improve it further.

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes please contact our dedicated service; Laws@RFU.com

Kind regards

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