



Referee Progression Pathway 2022/23

Overview

The Referee Progression Pathway will create more progression opportunities for more officials across the grassroots game (Level 5-7 & Level Y). The priorities of this change will focus on:

- Giving referees greater control over their own progression
- Providing a route for expedited progression for those able to commit to more games
- Instilling a developmental philosophy into grassroots refereeing
- Motivating and incentivising refereeing through structural change
- Re-energising and diversifying the referee development workforce across the grassroots game
- Removing some of the key barriers to progress

How?

The new methodology will replace the annual promotion process based on formal assessments with progression based on:

- Number of appointments
- Completion of free online referee development modules
- Support and advice from a Match Day Coaches
- Successful completion of a Laws of the Game exam
- Attendance at face-to-face training (Level 6-5 only)

Expected Benefits

- **Increased coverage** – as quarterly promotions will be linked to the completion of appointments; referees will be incentivised to cover more games.
- **Developmental culture** – move from “fault-finding” to a collegiate model+ free online content
- **Increase number of promotion candidates** - Incentivise progression based on achievable and attainable routes with opportunities offered at several stages during the season
- **Refresh the referee development workforce** – attract more people into supporting other referees
- **Referees with potential** – increasing the numbers in the pathway increases access to development to increase standards.

- **Progression alongside other roles within football** – the model will allow officials to progress at their own pace (e.g., academy players to progress alongside playing commitments) or attract those when finished playing.
- **Club marks no longer required** - this will remove a potential area of concern/unfairness and significantly reduce an administrative burden for clubs, leagues, and County FAs

Level Clarification

To be considered for the Referee Progression Pathway, referees will need to opt in, but this can be at any point during a season. There will be no further changes to female pathway at 4W however referees will still need to apply in order to be considered for the 4W-3W promotion. Finally, every youth referee will start as Y1

	Level Y1-Y2	Level Y2 to L7	Level 7-6	Level 6-5	Notes
Games as referee	20 (U14 and below)	All games contribute towards youth requirement for Level 7-6	25 (Youth/Adult) *minimum 10 games in adult football	25 (Youth/Adult) *minimum 15 games in adult football	All games at Level 7-5 must be 9v9 or 11v11 football with offside in operation
Games as assistant	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	
Observations	0	0	0	0	
Match Day Coach Reports	2	2	2	2	
Online Development modules	2	0	2	4 (specifically for L6 officials)	
Face to Face IST	0	0	0	1	
Fitness Test	0	0	0	0	
Laws of the Game Test	1	1	1	1	

Please see below for clarification and additional criteria to support with the new Referee Progression Pathway:

- All games at Level 7-5 must be 9v9 or 11v11 football with offside in operation.
- Level 7 officials must complete a minimum of 10 games in open age football to meet the requirements of the progression pathway.
- Level 6 officials must complete a minimum of 15 games in open age football to meet the requirements of the progression pathway.

- To incentivise those referees who achieve Y2 status, all games they referee as a Y2 will be included for consideration as a Level 7 match official. So, for example, if a Y2 referee completes 10 games in youth football as a Y2 official they would only need to complete 5 more games in youth football as a Level 7 official once they turn 16. This does not apply to an official who is a Y1 referee when they turn 16 who would need to complete the full requirement of a Level 7.
- Referees who wish to be considered for the Referee Progression Pathway will need to opt in, but this can be at any point during a season. For this season referees may opt in from 1 June with the new pathway criteria will applied from 1 August 2022.
- Mini soccer is applicable for Y1-Y2 progression pathway only and can include tournaments.
- Referees only need to complete their online learning once for 2022/23 and can be applied across various promotion requirements.
- Laws of the Game tests will be accessible for referees online and can be taken individually at a time of their choosing due to the remote access.
- There will be no further changes to female pathway at 4W however referees will still need to apply to be considered for the 4W-3W promotion.
- Every youth referee will start as a Y1 official.

Match Day Coaches

Match Day Coaches will be used to support Referees on the Progression Pathway and will replace observations. Match Day Coaches are separate to Developers, Mentors and Observers.

Promotions

Promotions up to Level 5 to be **processed on a quarterly basis** (31 October, 31 December, 28 February, 30 April) by the relevant County FA once an individual has met all the minimum requirements for progression.

Good luck for season 22/23!

