



MENTOR AREA

STAGE 1: Get involved in refereeing

PART 1: The first steps

Becoming a referee is one of the best ways that you can actively be involved in the beautiful game without actually playing it. Whilst many of us dream about making it as a professional footballer, very few make it, and refereeing is the perfect alternative for those who don't make the grade. Refereeing is undoubtedly the toughest job in football, but it's also incredibly enjoyable and rewarding. If you're thinking about becoming a referee, it's a fairly straightforward process:



STEP 1: Visit your local FA's website

There should be a dedicated section for referees, which will feature a section on becoming a referee. Read through it to find out what you need to do to qualify.

STEP 2: Book on a Basic Referee Course

Following the steps should lead you to the courses that your County FA is running. Refereeing is becoming increasingly popular and places fill up quickly, so it's best to get in there quick and book your place as soon as possible. The cost of the course varies, but is usually around £150 inclusive of kit and equipment etc.

STEP 3: Enjoy your course!

You've paid for it, so enjoy it. The atmosphere on refereeing courses is often relaxed and there is always a nice mixture of people, many of whom will be as apprehensive as you! All County FAs are similar but run the course slightly differently, so it's important to read exactly what you will be doing on their website. Find out more by reading our 'What to expect on your course' document in the Mentor Area.

STEP 4: Pass the test

At the end of your course, you will have to take the basic referee test. Bear in mind that it is basic and most people will pass without too much difficulty,



but it is important to revise and learn the LOTG nonetheless!

STEP 5: You're on your way!

Passing the test is just the start of your refereeing journey. Find out what happens next by visiting Section 2 in our Mentor Area.

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