



MENTOR AREA

STAGE 1: Get involved in refereeing
PART 2: What to expect on your course

So you've decided you want to become a referee and have enrolled yourself on a Basic Referee Course at your local FA. Obviously, you want to know what you're getting for your money, and what sort of stuff you'll get up to on the course. Like the first time you do anything, it's inevitable that you'll be nervous, but when you arrive on day 1, you'll realise that you were fussing over nothing.

There will be around 30 people on the course, although depending on the County FA and demand for the course this can vary. It is likely that you will be divided into smaller groups when participating in classroom activities, and this gives you a chance to get to know a few people. Regardless of your age or gender, there will almost certainly be someone similar to you on the course – that's the great thing about refereeing, it's open to anyone.



The course will be divided between classroom sessions, which will usually involve studying different aspects of the laws, looking at video clips and so on, and outdoor sessions, in which you put the skills you have learnt into practise. You'll be taught the skills you need as both a referee and assistant referee, including communication skills and accurate signals. A few casual games of football are also likely, with the people on the course taking turns to be ref!

The atmosphere on refereeing courses is typically very relaxed and friendly; there will be plenty of laughs and jokes along the way. The people running the course will expect plenty of questions, so if something is unclear then don't be afraid to ask. The course aims to cover everything you will need to go out and referee a football match effectively, but it won't go into too much detail on some aspects of the LOTG.

As you near the end of your course, you'll have to complete the basic referee test. This is a multiple choice test essentially aimed at making sure you were paying attention during the lessons! You need to score 75% or above to pass, which is fairly easy to attain given that the questions are relatively easy. Once you've done that, you've completed the course. All you need to do now is get 6 games under your belt to earn qualified status.



You should receive plenty of goodies as part of your course fee. Many County FAs supply a full kit, whistle & cards. You'll get a DVD, some booklets, safeguarding material, and a copy of the LOTG, as well as some leaflets advising you on the next steps to take once you've completed the course.

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