



## **RULES RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATION, REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES.**

1. No person shall officiate as a referee and/or assistant referee in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Football Association of Wales (“the FAW”) unless they are registered with the Association.
2. A referee and/or assistant referee must be registered with the Association on payment of an annual subscription fee of £20.00 (inclusive of VAT).
3. Any person who wishes to be registered shall register on the Association’s COMET system and pay an annual subscription fee. The Association shall keep a register on the COMET system of all registered referees and/or assistant referees.
4. A referee and/or assistant referee will be allocated to an Area Association within the area they reside and that Area Association shall then be their parent Association and shall deal with all matters concerning them as a referee and/or assistant referee. The referee’s parent Association shall also deal with promotions up to and including Grade 3A.
5. The qualification of such applicants shall be subject to such examinations as the Council of the FAW or the Area Association shall determine from time to time. All applicants must have completed a full qualification (or other relevant FIFA member Association qualification). Referees of Grade 3B and above and any referee or assistant referee seeking promotion must revalidate this qualification by attending the relevant Association educational course every 3 years.
6. Grading shall be in four levels. The grading of a referee and assistant referee by the Association or Area Association must be accepted by all other Associations affiliated to the FAW.
7. All registration fees are payable annually. The Association shall, on or before 1st July in each year, classify their Grade 2 referees and assistant referees and above and validate this information on the COMET system on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August. Each Area Association shall, on or before 1st July in each year, classify their Grade 3A referees and below and validate this information on the COMET system on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August.
8. In the Welsh Cup Competition, only Grade 3B referees and above shall be appointed, however, lower level officials may act as assistant referee but the senior assistant referee in all Welsh Cup matches shall be either a specialist assistant referee or at least Grade 3B when available. In the Football Association of Wales Trophy, Women’s Cup and Youth Cup Competitions, after round four, only Grade 3B referees and above shall be appointed, however, lower level officials may act as assistant referee.
9. Referees and/or assistant referees must not travel in the company of the participating teams.
10. An applicant between the ages of 14-16 years must be registered as a junior referee by the Area Association following completion of the Associations advanced referees’ course.
11. An applicant over the age of 14 may be registered to referee junior football by completing the referees leaders award course.

12. Referees and/or assistant referees must only accept appointments from the competition administrator.
13. Referees and/or assistant referees should wear a referee kit in all Official Matches and Open Friendly Matches.
14. Referees in Grade 3B and assistant referees in Grade 2AR and above must wear the official badge of the Association. Referees in all other classes must wear the official badge of the Area Association to which they reside.
15. No referee and/or assistant referee shall be allowed to officiate in any Official Match or Open Friendly Match if not registered with the Association.
16. Referees and/or assistant referees registered with the Association are not permitted to act either as referee or assistant referee in any league or competition in which they also take part as a Player.
17. If for unforeseen circumstances, a registered referee and/or assistant referee is unable to officiate, competitions or Clubs may agree on some other person to act in these extreme circumstances.
18. Any referee and/or assistant referee proved to have been concerned as an Intermediary for a Club in the transfer and/or engagement of a player shall be deemed to have committed a Disciplinary Offence.
19. Sponsorship is only permitted on the sleeve of a referee and/or assistant referee shirt, as per FIFA Rules.
20. Each Area Association will have a referee development group. FIFA nominations should firstly be considered from those officials who had progressed through the scheme, when they are National list officials, unless in special circumstances.
21. The referee is to decide what is required from the club assistant in terms of ball out and offside. The referee should decide on which side the club assistant should stand but it is recommended that he takes his own forward line.
22. In senior and reserve divisions of the Directly Affiliated Leagues a referee and/or assistant referee who submits a report of misconduct after any deadline set shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as laid down by the Association. The Deadlines are as follows:
  - (i) Caution reports / misconduct reports – A referee and/or assistant referee must submit within 2 Business Days of the match, a report stating the offence and giving a description of the incident.
  - (ii) Sending's off – A referee must submit a report by 2.00pm on the next Business Day following a match, stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s)
23. In all other matches a referee and/or assistant referee who submits a report of misconduct after any deadline set shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures as laid down by the Area Associations from time to time.
24. All referees and/or assistant referees must use the COMET system as required by the Association to submit availability, accept or decline appointments and to submit match reports in accordance with competition regulations.
25. The hierarchy of authority for referees and/or assistant referees on a Sunday is as follows; FAW appointments, Welsh Premier League, Welsh Premier Women's League, other.
26.
  - (i) The fee for the advanced referees course is £80.00.
  - (ii) The fee for the referees leaders award course is £20.00.
  - (iii) Any referee and/or assistant referee who has been inactive for five years, must re-take the whole course.

27. Attendance at Area Association training and education seminars is mandatory for all referees and/or assistant referees seeking promotion, unless a legitimate reason for non-attendance is provided and accepted by the Area Association. Fitness tests should also be completed where appropriate.

## REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREE CATEGORIES

### Category One- Referee

International (FIFA List)

- 1A Welsh Premier referees
- 1B Welsh Premier talent referees

### Category Two:

FAW Championship referees

### Category Three:

- 3A Referees' Panel of the Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 3 of the Pyramid (*Welsh League Division 1, Mid Wales League Division 1, Welsh National League Premier Division, Welsh Alliance League Division 1*) and act as assistant referees at Tier 2.
- 3B Referees' Panel of the Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 4 of the Pyramid (*Welsh League Division 2, Mid Wales League Division 2, Welsh National League Division 1, Welsh Alliance League Division 2*) and at area level and act as assistant referees at Tier 2 & 3.

### Category Four:

- 4A Third season referees (and longer) who referee at Area Association level and are permitted to act as assistant referees in their respective Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 2.
- 4B\* Second season referees (and longer) over the age of 16 who operate at Area Association level and are permitted to act as assistant referees in their respective Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 2 & 3 subject to have attended an assistant referees course as organised by the Area Association. Also permitted to referee in Directly Affiliated reserve league matches.
- 4C\*\* First year referees over the age of 16 who referee at Area Association level but are not eligible to act as assistant referees on the Directly Affiliated Leagues.
- 4D Qualified and registered referees under the ages of 14 - 16 (not eligible for adult football).
- 4E Qualified and registered referees who are non-active.

\* Minimum length of time in category 4B to be two seasons unless exceptional circumstances apply.

\*\* Minimum length of time in category 4C to be one season.

### **ASSISTANT REFEREE PATHWAY**

International (FIFA List)

- 1AR National list specialist assistant referee
- 1ART Specialist assistant referees at Tier 2 but have been identified as assistant referees with potential and are eligible to be appointed to Tier 1 matches from time to time
- 2AR Specialist assistant referee at Tier 2
- 3AR Specialist assistant referee at Tier 3
- 4AR Specialist assistant referee (in training) – This would run in parallel with the refereeing Grade 4 for those interested in following assistant referee pathway with a view of becoming a 3AR. Referees would have to serve a minimum of 1 year core refereeing experience prior to electing to join the assistant referee pathway.

## **FEMALE PATHWAY**

### **Category One - Referee**

- F International (FIFA List)
- F-1A National list referee
- F-1B National list talent referee

### **Category One – Specialist Assistant Referee**

- F International (FIFA List)
- F-1AR National list assistant referee

### **Category Two – Referee**

- F-2A 2<sup>nd</sup> year referee who operates in the feeder leagues to WPWL and acts as assistant referee  
In the WPWL.
- F-2B 1<sup>st</sup> Year referee who operates in the feeder leagues to WPWL and acts as assistant referee  
In the WPWL (and has attended an assistant referee course as organised by the Area Association)

### **Note**

*Referees for the Welsh Premier Women's League will be taken from the Male categories 3A and above and Female Category F-1B and above, whilst the Welsh Premier Development League will also be from 3B and above. Assistant referees can be taken from Categories 4C to 4A.*

## **JUNIOR REFEREES**

- AJR Adult football referees officiating in junior football with the referees' leaders award qualification only.
- CJR Child junior referee officiating junior football matches with referees' leaders award qualification only (These referees must only referee football matches of an age range below their academic year)

Footnote:

Where season is mentioned above, the referee must be registered by 31<sup>st</sup> December of that season.