



19 April 2012

Referee Appointment Policy

In the interests of creating a vibrant and progressive Referee Branch, ESFARB is keen to outline our policies and procedures for advancement of referees.

Progress of referees to ESFA Premier League appointments is by way of experience on our top Sunday matches. The AA1, AA2, O35/1, U18s and AAW1 divisions are often the toughest and experience tells us that we need our best referees on those divisions. Of course, there are matches in other divisions that are very difficult and require experienced officials and we endeavour to ensure that these matches too have the most experienced officials.

There are only 5 Premier League and Reserve matches each Saturday therefore requiring 10 centres. This means that members of our Premier League Panel will not be appointed to a PL/Reserve centre every weekend particularly as the Branch wishes to promote youth whilst maintaining standards for the more experienced referees as well.

Injuries and other commitments always restrict availability and therefore it is very important that we have a pool of 20 referees with PL and PL Reserve experience and capacity.

On weekends when our Panel members are not appointed to ESFA PL, we recommend and request that they make themselves available to officiate on Sunday when we have the major men's and women's matches.

We all do this as we view our refereeing as a general public service and the rotation to other divisions is a good learning experience for referees of all standards and experience. This will assist referees to hone skills and improve player management skills. State League and even the A-League do precisely the same as all A-League referees officiate in their respective State Leagues on a rotation basis.

ESFARB will be increasing its capacity to assess referees and all Level 3 members of the RSC intend to qualify as registered assessors this season.

There is a critical scarcity of assessors in the game and all referee Branches suffer from this acute shortage.

The FFA has created a requirement for all assessors to be accredited and registered and ESFA is of course required to abide by these standards and use registered assessors. At present there are very few accredited assessors available and the ESFARB will both increase these numbers and ensure that more qualified assessors are deployed.

We plan to assess as many referees as we can so please allow us some time to implement these ambitious plans. In the meantime, if you are keen to progress, please contact the Branch Executive so we can fast track your assessment.

The Branch is very keen to assist all referees to further their refereeing careers and to that end we recommend that aspiring referees move up to the State League Branch. If you are serious about refereeing then this is where you need to go and as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions please contact a committee member to discuss your options.

Kind Regards,
ESFA Referees Standing Committee