

Referees and officials

REMEMBER: All referees are volunteers and play a vital role in providing football for our teams. Without officials there would be no game! Treat them with respect and don't forget, it's a difficult job and mistakes happen.

It is the responsibility of the home team to contact appointed referees or provide a volunteer to officiate.

Appointed referees

The leagues will endeavour to appoint referees for matches but these tend to be allocated from the oldest teams downwards. If you are allocated a referee their details will be included in the FA Full Time email (sent to your team manager/administrator). Contact them as you would your opposition and confirm the cost of expenses.

Volunteer referees

Home teams are required to provide referees and if one isn't appointed by the league then a volunteer such as a coach or parent can officiate. They are extended exactly the same authority as an appointed referee whether qualified or not.

Referees assistants

Usually, mini soccer games are officiated by a referee only as no offside is played. However, with older age groups volunteers are required to be referee assistants (usually each team provided a volunteer each).

FAQs

What happens if the allocated referee pulls out or doesn't turn up?

Should the referee become unavailable the league will endeavour to find a replacement. However, should this not be the case or the referee doesn't turn up the fixture should still be played with a volunteer officiating.

How much should the referee be paid?

This varies as the fee is for travelling expenses. You should allow between £25.00 and £30.00 per game. All referee fees can be reclaimed from the club (so please keep a record or receipt). A template is included in this pack – print it off and trim into 4 separate slips

Does the club provide a referee if one isn't allocated?

On the whole no, although fellow managers and coaches may step in if required.

Do volunteer referees such as parents have to have a CRC in place?

No – although it would be good practice for parents who regularly volunteer to be CRC checked and to attend a child welfare course.