

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

1. No person shall officiate as a Referee in any Competition under the jurisdiction of The Football Association of Wales unless they are registered with an Affiliated Association.
2. A Referee must be registered with an Affiliated Association on payment of a subscription fee of £12.50, which shall increase to £20 if payment is made after the respective Association's registration deadline. Each Affiliated Association shall keep a Register and shall issue lists of the Registered Referees prior to the commencement of each season or as required by The Council of The Football Association of Wales.
3. A Referee must be registered with the Affiliated Association within whose area they reside and that Affiliated Association shall then be their parent Association and shall deal with all matters concerning them as a Referee, including promotion to Grade 3A. Subject thereto, they may also be registered with any other Affiliated Association on payment of the subscription fee set out in clause 2 of these regulations to the Affiliated Association.
4. Any person desirous of being registered shall make application on a form supplied by The Secretary of an Affiliated Association and shall, with the application, pay a fee according to their grading.
5. The qualification of such applicants shall be subject to such Examinations as The Council of The Football Association of Wales or the Affiliated Association shall from time to time determine.
6. A Referee shall not be registered unless able to satisfy the Affiliated Association of their date of birth.
7. Grading shall be in four levels. The grading of a Referee by an Affiliated Association must be accepted by all other Associations affiliated to The Football Association of Wales. Each Referee shall purchase annually a Referee's Chart from his Area Association unless the previous year's edition has not been revised, in which event this ruling will only apply to new referees.
8. All fees and Subscriptions are payable Annually and each Affiliated Association shall, on or before 1st July in each year, classify their Referees and forward a complete list to The Football Association of Wales on or before the first day of October in each year.
9. In the Football Association of Wales Trophy and Youth Cup Competitions, after round four, only Grade 3B Referees and above shall be appointed, but lower level officials may act as Assistant Referee. In the Welsh Cup Competition, only Grade 3B Referees and above shall be appointed. Lower level officials may act as assistant Referee. But the Senior Assistant Referee in all Welsh Cup matches shall be at least Grade 3B when available.
10. In Representative and International Matches, only Grades 1 or 2 to officiate.
11. Referees must not travel in company with teams.
12. An applicant under the age of 16 years may be registered as a Junior Referee by an Affiliated Association.

13. Referees should go on the field in Proper Costume, and Referees in Grade 3B and above should wear the Official Badge of The Football Association of Wales. Referees in all other classes should wear the Official Badge of the Affiliated Association to which they are registered.
14. No Referee shall be allowed to officiate in any Association Cup, League or other Competition sanctioned by The Football Association of Wales or an Affiliated Association, or any friendly match between Association Clubs, who is not registered with an Affiliated Association.
15. Referees registered with an Affiliated Association are not permitted to act either as Referee or Assistant Referee in any League or Competition in which they also take part as players.
16. A person who has lost the sight of an eye shall not be registered.
17. If for unforeseen circumstances, a registered Referee is unable to officiate, Competitions or Clubs may agree on some other person to act in the emergency.
18. Any Referee proved to have been concerned as an Agent for a Club in the transfer and/or engagement of a player shall have his name removed from the Register of an Affiliated Association.
19. Sponsorship is only permitted on the sleeve of a referee shirt, as per FIFA Guidelines.
20. Roll On/Roll Off Subs is allowed in Under 16 football including Academy matches.
21. Each Affiliated Association will have a Referee Development Group. There should be 8-10 referees in each Talent Group, within the age-range of 16-26. 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. Referees residing in Wales for a limited time only, such as students, should not be considered.
22. The referee examination course fee is £150 per course, which is rechargeable within the Affiliated Association's annual Referee Training Grant from the FAW.
23. The referee is to decide on what is required from the Club Assistant in terms of Ball In/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.
24. A 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 FAW or Affiliated Association from time to time.
25. The hierarchy of authority for Referees on a Sunday is as follows; FAW appointments, Welsh Premier League, Welsh Premier Women's League, Other.
26.
 - (i) The fee for the Referees Course throughout Wales is £15, which includes Year 1 Registration.
 - (ii) Any referee that has not become active, two years after completing the Course, but before 5 years, must take a refresher course.
 - (iii) Any referee who has not become active after 5 years must re-take the whole Course.

27. Attendance at Area Association Training and Education seminars is mandatory for all referees seeking promotion, unless a legitimate reason for non-attendance is provided.

REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREE CATEGORIES

Category One- Referee

International (FIFA List)

- 1A Welsh Premier Referees
- 1B Welsh Premier Talent Referees

Category Two:

Cymru Alliance and Welsh League Referees Division 1 (who are also Welsh Premier Assistant Referees)

Category Three:

- 3A Referees' Panel of the Directly Affiliated Leagues at Tier 3 of the Pyramid (*Welsh League Division 2, SPAR Mid Wales 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 3, SPAR Mid Wales 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 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 Tier 2 & 3 subject to have attended a Lining Course as organised by the Area FA.
- 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 age of 16 (not eligible for Adult football).
- 4E Qualified and registered referees who are non-active.

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

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

FEMALE PATHWAY

Category One - Referee

- F International
- F-1A National List Referee
- F-1B National List Talent Referee

Category One – Specialist Assistant Referee

- F International
- F-1A National List Assistant Referee

Category Two – Referee

- F-2A 2nd year Referee who operates in the Feeder Leagues to WPWL and acts as Assistant Referee In the WPWL.
- F-2B 1st Year Referee who operates in the Feeder Leagues to WPWL and acts as Assistant Referee In the WPWL (and has attended a lining course as organised by the Area FA)

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 WP Development League will also be from 3B and above. Assistant Referees can be taken from Categories 4C to 4A.

ASSISTANT REFEREE PATHWAY

International (FIFA)

- 1AR National List Specialist AR
- 2AR Specialist AR at Tier 2
- 3AR Specialist AR at Tier 3
- 4AR Specialist AR (in training) – This would run in parallel with the refereeing Grade 4 for those interested in following AR Pathway with a view of becoming Grade 3AR. Referees would have to serve a minimum of 1-year core refereeing experience prior to electing to join the AR pathway.