

## Introduction

Scottish Rugby's new Match Official Development Pathway replaces the current courses as of November 2020. The new pathway has been developed to support clubs, schools and societies to work towards three linked aims, and will be delivered as of July 2022:

- **Start** - To give more people the chance to participate in rugby.
- **Stay** - To retain more people in our game by improving their experiences.
- **Succeed** - To support more people to achieve their potential whether at club, school, age-grade, professional or international level.

The new pathway will inspire positive change and provide a platform for the development of our game at all levels. Match officials play a critical role in the game at all levels, and have a huge influence on people's enjoyment and participation in rugby.

Be it facilitating a game of mini rugby, running touch at the local club, or taking to the middle in a cup final at BT Murrayfield, match officials play an integral part in a players experience.

Scottish Rugby's new match officials development pathway has been designed with the stage of the match official in mind and will focus heavily of supporting match officials in their own environment, and increasing the delivery of CPD opportunities.

## What's new?

- Four new Match Officiating qualifications, as well as new e-learning modules have been created to accelerate match officials learning.
- New mini rugby referees award to support those at the entry point in the player pathway.
- A new match official accreditation scheme will be introduced to develop a culture of ongoing development, and to increase the compliance of minimum standards.

## MATCH OFFICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

### 1 Mini Rugby Referee

- Entry level award to officiate mini rugby.
- Learners must be aged 14+ to complete.
- 1 x 2hr online module.
- 1 x 2hr practical module.
- Free of charge.
- Delivered on a regional basis from Autumn 2021.

### 2 Introduction to Match Officiating

- Entry level qualification to officiate S1+ rugby.
- Learners must be aged 15+ to complete.
- 3 x 2hr online modules.
- 1 x 3hr practical module.
- Free of charge.
- Delivered on a regional basis from July 2021.

### 3 Aspiring Match Officials Course

- Match Officials must have completed a Level 1 or Introduction to Match Officiating course to access.
- Available to society and club/school match officials.
- Learners must be aged 16+ to complete.
- Free of charge.
- Delivered on a regional basis from 2022.

### 4 Advanced Match Officials Course

- Match Officials must have completed an Level 2 or Aspiring Match Officials course to access.
- Available to society match officials only.
- Learners must be aged 18+ to complete.
- Free of charge.
- Delivery TBC

### 5 Performance Match Officials Course

- Match Officials must have completed a Level 3 or ADMO course to access.
- Available to panel match officials only.
- Learners must be aged 18+ to complete.
- Free of charge.
- Delivery TBC

**"Being a match official is a excellent way to stay involved in the game, keep fit and inspire the next generation"**

Mike Adamson  
Scottish Rugby Referee

### MINIMUM MATCH OFFICIAL STANDARDS 2021/22

All match officials in the youth and adult game must have completed the following to officiate a match:

- Completed the new Introduction to Match Officiating or the old Referee Level 1 courses (as a minimum).
- RugbyRight online (accessed via SCRUMS) - All Match Officials must complete.

### Match Official CPD and Support Programmes

In addition to the qualifications highlighted above, Scottish Rugby will continue to deliver the following (delivery of these is subject to government restrictions):

- Touch Judge course (online).
- Coaches of Match Official courses.
- Regular webinars on key areas of the game.
- Mental Health e-learning course - match officials are recommended to complete the Mental Health e-learning course which is [available here](#) free of charge.

### COVID-19 Impact

The restrictions on indoor and outdoor gathering means that Match Official development programmes will be delivered in 2021/22 via a blended approach of online and practical modules.

For further information please visit <https://www.scottishrugby.org/clubs-and-schools/training-and-education/>