

## APPENDIX C

### MATCH OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

#### **MEMORANDUM OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGISTERED REFEREES**

Affiliated Associations must provide, as a minimum, the following for Referees administered by them:

##### **Allocation to Leagues**

The Association is responsible for the allocation of Referees promoted to, or serving on, the National Contributory Leagues List of Assistant Referees to a suitable Supply League on which to referee. The allocation of Referees to officiate as Assistant Referees in the recognised division of one Supply League only, in which teams from the Affiliated Association operate, is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association to ensure that local football is not deprived of Referees.

Referees successfully completing the Basic Referee Training Course are to be advised in writing, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, of the leagues on which they may operate.

##### **Appointments**

Affiliated Associations make appointments to their individual Competitions. In addition, they are invited to make nominations in respect of FA Competitions at the request of The Football Association Refereeing Department.

##### **Benevolent Scheme**

Affiliated Associations are encouraged to make available access to any Benevolent Scheme it runs to Referees. They may also access, on behalf of a Referee, The Football Association Benevolent Fund.

##### **County Football Association Badge**

The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees require Referees to wear the badge of the County FA who administers his registration on FA Competitions, where such a badge is available. This provides County identity for Match Officials when operating both within and outside their Affiliated Association boundary. Affiliated Associations should make the County FA badge available to Referees.

##### **County Football Association Handbook**

Affiliated Associations should provide, as a minimum, the County Cup Competition Rules, details of Club Secretaries and details of grounds/match venues.

##### **General Advice**

General advice and guidance on all football related matters should be communicated by the Affiliated Association to those Referees it administers.

##### **In-Service Training**

Referees at Level 4 and below are provided with in-service training by Affiliated Associations. In-service training for Referees in the promotion scheme is mandatory in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees and may be co-ordinated in conjunction with National Referee Managers. Other in-service training (i.e. Supply League Referees, Pre-Cup Final training, assessor training, etc) should be provided for Referees as appropriate. Funding may be accessed to meet some of the training and development needs.

##### **Laws of the Game**

All referees must be provided with a current edition of the Laws of the Game by their Parent Association and any Law amendment bulletin published by The Association.

##### **Legal Advice**

Affiliated Associations may assist in the provision of legal advice where appropriate to Referees. This could involve seeking advice from The Association on behalf of the Referee in certain circumstances.

**Liaison with the National Referee Managers**

Affiliated Associations should make every use of the services of the National Referee Managers in the support of its responsibilities for registered Referees as outlined in this Memorandum.

**Licensed Referee Tutor Courses**

Affiliated Associations should identify those candidates it considers suitable to attend Licensed Referee Tutor Courses in accordance with the criteria notified by The Association from time to time. The Association makes financial provision for these courses.

**Mentor Scheme**

Affiliated Associations are required to provide Mentor support for Referees undertaking the Basic Referee Training Course. It is recognised that mentoring is an aid to retention and Affiliated Associations are encouraged to extend the service to other Referees wherever possible.

**Monitoring of Financial Provision**

Affiliated Associations are required to develop and produce a County Development Plan linked to the National Game Strategy which details key initiatives and targets to support recruitment, retention and development of Referees as well as offering details on the financial support provided by The Association. Returns are to be submitted to The Association upon request.

**Nominations to the Contributory League List**

Affiliated Associations are required to nominate eligible and suitable Referees to join the Contributory League Assistant Referees List from their Senior County Referees on request from The Football Association Refereeing Department. Those Referees who are nominated for consideration to the Contributory League Assistant Referees List must have successfully completed the required fitness test as determined by The Football Association Referees' Committee from time to time.

**Personal Accident Insurance**

Affiliated Associations are encouraged to investigate the need for Personal Accident Insurance for Referees.

**PGMOL**

The Professional Game Match Officials Ltd is responsible for officials operating in the Premier League, Football League and Panel Leagues.

**Promotion and Assessment Scheme**

Affiliated Associations are responsible for the promotion of Referees up to Level 5 - Senior County Referee, in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, by ensuring that Referees are active at the appropriate Level and are regularly assessed. The promotion assessment scheme is part funded by The Association. Senior County Referees and below, outside the promotion scheme, who are administered by their Parent Association should be regularly assessed for development purposes.

**Public Liability Insurance**

A minimum of £5 million, as recommended by The Association, cover for public liability insurance.

**Recruitment and Basic Training of New Referees**

The recruitment and training of new Referees is an important area which Affiliated Associations have responsibility towards the development of the future of the game. The Association supports this with provision of financial and material support.

**Referee Discipline**

The Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees devolve the responsibility for Referee discipline, of those Referees not operating on the National List of Contributory League Officials or above, to the Referee's Parent Association. Where an alleged offence is committed by a Referee whilst acting as a Match Official in any capacity (on or off the field) the matter will be dealt with

by a Referees' Committee or Commission thereof, except where the charge relates to FA Rule E. In this and all other circumstances the Referee will be dealt with as any other Participant. Referees should be made aware of the process by which any acts of misconduct, or indiscipline in relation to their registration, will be dealt with by the Affiliated Association.

### **Registration**

Registrations for Referees must be in accordance with the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees as amended by The Association from time to time. Affiliated Associations will collect the National Registration fee and, where appropriate, any Associate Referee fee levied by them for Referees administered by another Affiliated Association. Except where determined otherwise, Affiliated Associations will be responsible for the provision of CRC and any other checks on Referees as decided by The Association.

### **Safeguarding Children Training**

In accordance with the Rules of The Association, every participant in a position of trust e.g. coach, referee, medic, welfare officer etc... is required to undergo Safeguarding Children Training. The Football Association Referees Department and Equality and Child Protection Unit will provide appropriate guidance.

### **Schools of Excellence and Referee Academies**

Affiliated Associations are strongly encouraged to include a School of Excellence (or Referee Academy) for referees.

### **Transfers**

Affiliated Associations are responsible for ensuring that Referees who move to another administrative area are notified to the receiving Association. On receipt of that notification, the receiving Affiliated Association should ensure that the Referee is made aware of the refereeing activities in the County.