



U.S.R.F.R.

# Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees



U.S.R.F.R.

## Becoming a Referee Q & A

### **Who should I contact if I am interested in becoming a rugby referee?**

If you are curious about becoming a Rugby Referee, please contact - Richard Kerr, the dedicated Referee Development Manager in Ulster. He would be happy to hear from you and can answer your questions:

Tel: 07493 868388

Email: [richard.kerr@irfu.ie](mailto:richard.kerr@irfu.ie)

### **What do I need to become a rugby referee?**

The following are pre-requisites:

- Be over 18 years of age (to become a member of USRFR)
- Have a love for the game
- Have a reasonable level of fitness
- Commitment – the more the better but at least one weekend per month
- Access to transport will help

### **What is the USRFR?**

The USRFR is the Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees. More details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ulsterrugby.com/rugby-in-ulster/rugby-development/referees/>

### **What training will I get?**

- Attend an online introduction session and a half day in person course which includes both classroom and on pitch work
- Watch a game with a mentor present to observe an experienced referee in action
- Touch-Judge a game with an experienced referee
- Referee age-grade matches until deemed able to referee an adult game
- Share an adult game with an experienced referee
- Receive regular mentoring
- Attend follow up workshops and USRFR meetings
- Move into full membership once a suitable Evaluation is achieved.

### **Do I get paid to referee?**

Not exactly – but you will receive a mileage allowance for travel to and from matches that you are officially appointed to.

## **How long will it take to graduate?**

It all depends on your ability and commitment level. We aim to have all trainee referees graduated into full membership within 12 weeks.

## **When?**

The next New Referee course will be held on:

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**Affidea Stadium.**

## **Why become a referee?**

**Why not?** The following are just some of the benefits:

- Stay involved in the game
- A focus for keeping fit
- Be in the best seat in the house
- Free tickets to a number of Ulster matches or a reduced rate season ticket
- 'Right to buy' Ireland tickets
- Regular meetings – both local and general
- Make new friends
- Travel

Most of us say that we wish we had started sooner!

## **What kit will I receive?**

You will receive the following at the new referee course:

- Kit to get you started – referee uniform
- An Acme Thunderer whistle
- Law book
- Most importantly of all, you will receive excellent training and support as you begin your journey as a rugby referee

## **Do I have to attend meetings?**

There is a requirement to undertake annual training and continuous development:

- Annual Conference. This takes place in August, at the start of the season. All referees come together for the day to learn about any new laws, interpretations or focus areas
- Area meetings. The province is roughly divided into three areas (North West, Mid Ulster and Belfast). Each area holds one meeting per month in season. These are informal gatherings/ discussions usually with a monthly theme
- General meetings. There are also three or four general Society meetings each season

- IRFU led Training and Education sessions – these are specific to the level of the referee. Whilst attendance at these meetings is seldom compulsory, they are very worthwhile and contribute to ongoing development

**Who will assess me?**

The USRFR have a group of dedicated evaluators who are all former referees. These people give up their time to help develop your game and to ensure that refereeing standards are maintained.

**What is the cost?**

The Society has an annual membership fee – currently £45. This usually covers the cost of the annual shirt or some kit, which you get free as part of the package.

**Do I need to belong to a rugby club?**

No. The USRFR is a club within itself but there are benefits to your own rugby club if you are a member of one. Most clubs help their referees with club membership and most referees stay associated with their local club and/or school.

**Am I insured?**

USRFR Referees are appointed to their matches by IRFU (Ulster Branch) and consequently come under the IRFU insurance scheme like any player. This policy is available to review