



Un-Qualified (Adult) Referee Club Guidelines



Introduction

The club has a Referee Policy document that is available on the club website. An adult (non coach) referee is always the preferred option then the coach. Unqualified U18 should not be refereeing games (unless it is 1 of their 5 qualifying games for the referee course). There must be 2 year minimum downward age gap. *Any U18 who has an interest in refereeing should attend the FA Referee course and pass before refereeing any Youth Football matches – Contact the Club* Coaches should share this sheet with the unqualified adult referee ahead the game Referees responsibility at all times is the safety of the players

Useful Information – Match Format

U7 & U8 → Format 5 v 5 – 20 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 3 – No Offsides
U9 & U10 → 7 v 7 – 25 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 3 – No Offsides
U11 & U12 → Format 9 v 9 – 30 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 4 - Offsides
U13 & U14 → Format 11 v 11 – 35 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 4 - Offsides
U15 & U16 – Format 11 v 11 – 40 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 5 - Offsides
U17 & U18 – Format 11 v 11 – 45 Mins Each Way – Ball Size 5 - Offsides

When Refereeing - Information & Tips & Pre Match Preparation

Equipment - Coaches have been issued with whistles/notebooks/cards/flags. Bring your own timekeeping (x2) and understand the game format per above. The coach should state to the opposition in communications that it is a unqualified adult who will referee (unless the league appoints a qualified referee)

- 1 – Get there in good time (at least 20 mins before ideally 30 mins before)
- 2 - Check the pitch and goals.
- 3 - Check for any kit clashes including goalkeeping tops.
- 4a - Players Kits/Boot/Shin Pads Inspected – Jewellery **MUST** be removed.
- 4b - Option : Use this time to speak with the players.
- 5 - Check the match ball – Size/Marks/Pressure (not over inflated).
- 6 - Try and wear black.
- 7 - Get Names of the Match Day Delegates
- 8 - Speak with the Club Assistant Referees – Decisions required are **ball out of play and potential offside** (final offside decision made by the referee). Not on field decisions. Only if the assistant referee is a qualified referee can they flag for on field fouls. Assistant referees optional for U10 and below as no offsides.



Un-Qualified Referee Club Guidelines



Laws of the Game

There are 17 laws of the game detailed on <http://www.theifab.com/laws>

It is worth taking time to pick out some areas and understand the laws

There is also the unwritten law 18 that is common sense. Based on age group apply common sense when dealing with situations/age groups. i.e. U7 U8 U9 U10 throw ins – allow retake and educate or deliberate handball don't send the player off but do award a penalty. Educate is really important to allow players to understand and learn.

Sin Bins

The Club have provided all coaches with clear details of the Sin Bin Rules. Do not accept verbal or non verbal dissent from players. Sin Bin them.

Note : Players should be sent off in the case of using offensive, insulting or abusive language and or gestures. Again consider the situation/age group and apply common sense. Action is to educate and speak with the coach and perhaps have the coach substitute the player. Older age groups U11 upwards should know better.

Offside

The definition of offside is "An attacking player is nearer to their opponents goal than the ball and the second last opponent (goalkeeper is included)

An attacking player cannot be offside from a goal kick, corner or throw in.

It is not an offence for an attacking player to stand in an offside position

It only becomes an offence when 1 of 3 things happen

- 1- Player in the offside position touches the ball
 - 2 – Player interferes with an opponent by challenging them for the ball or blocking the goal keeper from seeing the ball
 - 3 – Gains an advantage by being in an offside position at the time the ball was played by a team mate and then receives the ball directly from a save or rebound (post/cross bar)
- No Offsides in U10 and below.

Other Useful Information -

Stay close to the action / move with the play – don't just stand in the centre circle

The advantage rule should last for a about 3 – 4 seconds no longer.

Reporting any cards/sin bins/discipline issues or misconduct – email the club for help
refereeing@harpendencolts.com

Contact / Questions - refereeing@harpendencolts.com