



## COMMUNITY RUGBY

To: Society Secretaries

10<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the new season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on a number of Officiating matters. I would be grateful if you could pass on to your members.

### **Referee Department Relocation**

Following the closure of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) Castlecroft offices, the administrative function of the Referee Department is now based at Twickenham. Bobbie Haynes remains with the Department as Appointments and Administration Team Leader and three new staff have been recruited; Nida Ahmad, Juliet Smith and Lindsay Piper. Details for the Referee Department staff can be found by visiting the "Contacts" section of [www.rfu.com/referee](http://www.rfu.com/referee)

At the National Panel conference held in June, we presented the departing Castlecroft staff with gifts to recognise the enormous contribution they had made to Officiating in England over the past 10 years. A significant number of Societies contributed to the fund and I would like to formally thank you for your generosity.

### **Discipline and Match Official Abuse Forms**

Forms for season 2007/8 are now available to download at the "Resources/Forms and Info" section of [www.rfu.com/referee](http://www.rfu.com/referee)

Please ensure that any Match Official Abuse Forms are passed to the relevant person in your Society prior to final submission.

### **RugbyFirst**

Your Society now has a RugbyFirst "Champion", whose responsibility it is to maintain and update membership details on the RFU game-wide database, RugbyFirst. Please ensure that any change of details is passed onto him/her so that the information contained within RugbyFirst remains accurate. Progress in developing the Web Based Appointments System continues and the Somerset and Manchester Societies are now testing the system's capabilities.

**Rugby Football Development Limited.**

a member of the Rugby Football Union group of companies  
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### Experimental Law Variations (ELVs)

You may be aware that a number of ELVs were trialled during the County Championship fixtures which took place towards the end of last season. A number of additional ELVs have been trialled around the world over the past 12 months and feedback is being gathered by the iRB as to their success or otherwise. There will be no Law changes prior to the World Cup and we shall keep you informed as to whether any of the ELVs are to be adopted thereafter.

### Continuous Referee Development Award (CRDA)

The Society Referee Award is to be replaced, with effect from September 2007, with a new Award, designed to better cater for the varied needs of Society referees. The Award will comprise a series of ten modules, some of which can be completed via distance learning, others of which need to be delivered in a classroom environment. Each module will be assessed and certificates issued at the end of each season. Society Training Officers (STOs) will be attending a “Product Familiarisation Weekend” on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July, following which they will be in a position to initiate delivery of the Award.

### RFU Referee Department Awards

<b>Award</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Who can Deliver</b>	<b>Key Additional Information</b>
<b>Entry Level Referee Award (ELRA)</b> A three stage award with a high percentage of practical work. The Award is mapped against the National Occupational Standards for Officiating. The three stages are assessed by examination, practical and match involvement	New Referees – school/university, club and society	Accredited RFU Referee Trainers	
<b>Continuous Referee Development Award (CRDA)</b> Covers many aspects of refereeing and is designed to help produce a competent match official at most levels of the game. There are 10 modules some of which can be completed by distance learning	Society members who have some experience of refereeing	Society Training Officer (STO)	The Award will be available in September 2007

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– if the Referee Society so determines. There are assessments for 9 of the 10 modules			
<b>CRDA – non Society Referees</b> As above but delivered to those who are not part of the formal Referee Society structure	Teachers and club referees who have some experience of refereeing	Referee Development Officer (RefDO)	The Award will be available in September 2007
<b>Development Referee Award</b> Most effectively delivered over 2 whole days, each day being separated by several weeks during which the candidates can follow up on individual tasks set during the classroom sessions. The emphasis is on management of players. The classroom sessions are designed to generate discussion and interaction. The whole workbook is assessed at the end of the course	Society and Development Squad members as well as those who have shown the potential to benefit from the award	Referee Development Manager (RefDM)	It is intended to amend this Award in the near future. It is likely to become the Development Squad Referee Award (DSRA)
<b>Touch Judge Award</b> A 3 tiered Award which is normally completed in one day. It is a combination of pre-course learning, group discussion, practical sessions and tutor led elements. The award is assessed by a written examination.	Club Touch Judges, Society and Development Squad members who have shown the potential to benefit from the award	STO	Award has been available since September 2006. Please note that the recommended format is via computer and the file is very large and cannot be e mailed. Delegates will need to be given a CD ROM well in advance. Alternatively STOs can print and distribute pre-course
<b>Society Adviser Award</b> Provides an introduction for those referees who are thinking about their future career in Officiating and who want to know more about the “watching” process. This is a one evening/3 hour course which will put individuals on the right track to understanding	Society members who have some experience of refereeing and want to know more about observing referees (Dual career candidates)	Those who have attended the appropriate Tutor Acquaint Evenings	It is not intended to hold further Tutor Acquaint Evenings unless demand from within Societies dictates otherwise

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<p>the game, their motives for watching and basic principles. There is no formal examination with this award – candidates will be judged by their contributions and comments to group discussion</p>			
<p><b>Development Adviser Award</b> A step up from the Society Adviser course and, again, is a one evening event. Building on the first award, this considers in more detail how an Adviser gets over messages using a range of interpersonal skills. As with the Society Adviser , there is no formal examination with this award – candidates will be judged by their contributions and comments to group discussion</p>	<p>Society members who have some experience of observing referees</p>	<p>Those who have attended the appropriate Tutor Acquaint Evenings</p>	<p>It is not intended to hold further Tutor Acquaint Evenings unless demand from within Societies dictates otherwise</p>
<p><b>Assessor Award</b> The Award is an all day event usually run by RFU staff and the 4 Group Adviser Development Officers (GADO). There is an important pre-course work element which involves study of a match DVD and follow up work in groups with feedback. As with other courses, there is no formal examination with this award – candidates will be judged by their contributions and comments to group discussion</p>	<p>Society members who have experience of observing referees and have shown the necessary inclinations and skills to assess</p>	<p>RefDMs</p>	<p>It is not intended to amend this Award in the near future</p>
<p><b>Referee Coach Award</b> The award is most effectively delivered over 2 whole days, each day being separated by several weeks during which the candidates can use the skills and knowledge they have acquired in the practical coaching of a referee. The</p>	<p>Society members who have some experience of observing referees and have shown the necessary inclinations and skills to coach</p>	<p>RefDM</p>	<p>There may be some modification of the Award during the year.</p>

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classroom sessions are designed to generate discussion and interaction The whole workbook is assessed at the end of the course			
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I would like to thank you for your continued support to Officiating in England and wish you every success for the coming season.

Richard Glynne-Jones  
Referee Manager  
July 2007

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