



*Q. Do young referees have to be CRB checked?*

A. Yes. All young referees between the ages of 16 and 18 must submit the CRB form.

*Q. Are referees under the age of 18 permitted to officiate at adult games?*

A. Yes, if their individual progression and experience merits such an appointment.

*Q. How old should someone be to undertake the Entry Level Referee Award (ELRA)?*

A. The Referee Department considers that the course is academically suitable for those 14 years and over.

*Q. What is a chaperone in relation to young officials?*

A. Perhaps a society assessor, adviser, referee coach or even referee who attends the young official's match to monitor his/her welfare and perhaps report on his/her performance.

*Q. Should that chaperone be CRB checked?*

A. Yes, unless he is the referee's parent or guardian.

*Q. Can a chaperone, not being a parent or guardian, drive that official to and from matches?*

A. It is advisable to avoid this situation. If the chaperone is, in the case of an emergency, required to drive the young official, parental permission should be first sought. Where possible, the chaperone should, where possible, travel with another passenger.



*Q. Should all young officials have a chaperone on every occasion?*

A. The Protection of Children Act 1999 refers to those aged 18 and under. As those aged 17 can now play adult rugby RFU policy relating to officials is confined to those of 16 years and under. In the absence of a parent, a chaperone should be provided.

*Q. Should those referees aged under 16 enter changing rooms to inspect kit and complete pre-match briefings?*

A. Best practice would be that such inspections be completed out in the open.

*Q. What action should a referee take if he/she witnesses abuse in the form of assault, bullying or any other action the referee deems inappropriate?*

A. Any actions with which the referee is uncomfortable should form the basis of an initial enquiry with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) Equity, Welfare and Medical Department; telephone number: 0208 831 7479

*Q. Is it appropriate to separate young players involved in a physical confrontation?*

A. It is especially advisable in the case of young players **not** to make physical contact. Such an action might subsequently be alleged as an assault or inappropriate.

*Q. Is it appropriate for match officials to share either changing or shower facilities with young people under the age of 18?*

A. It is **essential** that match officials change and shower **separately** from young people under the age of 18

**In the event of any unanswered questions or uncertainties, please contact Dave Broadwell, Referee Development Manager – London and South East at [davebroadwell@rfu.com](mailto:davebroadwell@rfu.com)**