
Match Official Development

Distribution List:

Referee Society Secretaries
Federation Secretaries
Area Training Teams
Match Official Panel Managers

Introduction:

Welcome to the 1st Match Official Send Out for the 2015-16 season, which we continue to develop following feedback from the 9 send outs last season.

As we **all** make final preparations for the **RWC 2015**, which is just 32 Days to kick off, the summer seems to have gone in the blink of an eye.

We have been busy; out on the road travelling the length and breadth of the country with the **Match Officials' Challenge** consultation events. These have given us the opportunity to meet with many colleagues and to engage in some really meaningful discussion about the future shape and direction of match officiating.

Also during this time, following the opportunity presented with our departmental re-structure, I have been recruiting a new team of **Match Official Development Officers**, but more of that later.

There are some timely updates together with law and regulation clarification advice. We aim to provide you with useful information, which can be actioned, distributed or for information.

We want to ensure well-timed communication and welcome any feedback you have on this process together with any ways in which we could improve further.

Contact us at: matchofficials@rfu.com

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes please contact our dedicated service: Laws@RFU.com

Michael

Michael D Patz
RFU Match Official Development Manager

	Monday 17th August 2015 - Update No. 1/15-16
1	For Action
1.1	Keep Your Boots On! (KYBO!) KYBO! Recruitment campaign is going to RWC 2015 Fan zones where we want you to be part of that experience!



The Host City KYBO events will support the campaign by providing the connection between social media generated awareness and enthusiasm, and practical steps to become a referee or coach.

Each event will be hosted in the immediate lead up to a match in a Fan zone close to the stadium. **A key benefit of the events will be the opportunity to convert interest generated in the wider campaign into recruitment, through face to face engagement.**

Referee societies, clubs and CB's are encouraged to use these as activation events to help recruit and build their volunteers.

The dates and venues are:

Date	Venue	Match
Sat 19/09/15	Brighton	RSA v Japan
Wed 23/09/15	Gloucester	Scotland v Japan
Sat 26/09/15	Birmingham (Villa Park)	RSA v Samoa
Sun 27/09/15	Leeds	Scotland v USA
Tue 29/09/15	Exeter	Tonga v Namibia
Thu 01/10/15	Milton Keynes	France v Canada
Sat 03/10/15	Newcastle	RSA v Scotland
Tue 06/10/15	Leicester	Canada v Romania
Wed 07/10/15	London (Olympic Stadium)	RSA v USA
Sat 10/10/15	Manchester	England v Uruguay

Final preparations are being made to confirm the times and formats for these events, but in the meantime register your interest/contact details at: matchofficials@rfu.com indicating the date(s) and venue(s) you wish to be part off and we'll get back to you to confirm ☺

Also visit and follow us on: www.twitter.com/kyboengland for real time updates.

For Society Training Officers/Recruitment Officers, to register attendance and distribution to all members



1.2

Why You Should Keep Your Boots On!

To support the recruitment of referees (and coaches), we have been working to produce short punchy video clips, promoting courses and the benefits of taking up the whistle.

The latest in the series, which has been produced to support our Fan Zone activity is available to view at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfzMDFuIQbM>

With a downloadable link accessible by contacting matchofficials@rfu.com

For Recruitment Officers/Website Administrators to use appropriately

RFU Annual Regulations Review & Update

The annual review of the RFU Regulations has been completed and the updated regulations are available on the England Rugby website.

A number of changes have been made to various RFU Regulations including:

- Regulation 1 (Definitions)
- Regulation 5 (Financial)
- Regulation 9 (Player Safety)
- Regulation 11 (Season)
- Regulation 13 (Adult Male Competitions)

Appendix 2 – RFU Variations to World Rugby Laws - referring to Front Row Requirements

- Regulation 14 (Registration of Adult Male Players)
- Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby)
- Regulation 16 (Adult Women Competitions)
- Regulation 19 (Discipline)
- Regulation 20 (Anti-Doping)
- Regulation 21 (Safeguarding)

1.3

The changes are highlighted within the Regulations and the updated Regulations come into effect on **1 August 2015**. All of the RFU Regulations are available in the RFU Handbook and available [here](#)

For Society Training Officers to factor into training events and publication to all members

World Rugby Law Application Guidelines



At a meeting in April 2015, the Laws Representation Group (LRG) considered the areas of the Game where, it had been agreed that Law amendments were not required but that current Law was to be enforced by match officials.

These have been re-stated and reviewed during the current Rugby Championship and the RWC warm-up games.

1.4

Go to: <http://laws.worldrugby.org/guidelines> for the latest Law Application Guidelines.

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes, please contact our dedicated e-mail service: Laws@RFU.com

A Power Point presentation containing fuller explanations and video content is available on request by contacting: matchofficials@rfu.com and arranging to send out via We Transfer due to its size.

For Society Training Officers to factor into training events and publication to all members

1.5



Concerned about concussion?

Want to know how you can help prevent and manage concussion injuries? The RFU has added three online training courses to its "don't be a Headcase" education programme - these are available now on the Headcase website: www.EnglandRugby.com/Headcase



If in doubt - sit them out. Learn how you can have the confidence to manage a suspected concussion during a game.

By the end of the course you will have a better understanding of concussion, the obstacles to delivering best practice management, and how YOU have a vital role to play in protecting player's health and wellbeing.

For Society Training Officers to factor into training events and publication to all members

2

For Distribution

Following the remodelling of the game development team we have secured the services of 4 Match Official Development Officers. As a department we will continue to promote, collaborate with and support Clubs, CBs, Refereeing Organisations and Local Delivery Teams in the delivery of the RFU Strategic Objectives.

In 2015-2016 this will involve paying particular attention to supporting the **15-a-side game** and will include extending the reach of the **Young Match Officials programme**, increasing the coverage of **Keep Your Boots On!**, maintaining a focus on player safety and **enhancing our training offer**.

2.1

The 4 new Officers are; John Rouse, John Widdowson, Clare Daniels and Ed Turnill

Together we will establish systems that **enhance existing opportunities and develop innovative solutions** to address issues affecting Match Official retention and recruitment. We will be responsible for developing match official training products, recruitment programmes, assessment/grading/selection protocols and will support the RFU National Panel to oversee the performance of the four Divisional Match Official Teams.

If you have any questions please contact me on: michaelpatz@rfu.com or 07710 381 814

For distribution and publishing on appropriate forums

Referees Nutritional Concepts

Alex Reid, The Professional Game Match Official Team (PGMOT) Strength & Conditioning Coach recently presented a nutrition session at the PGMOT Conference.

She has kindly provided a Pdf (attached) of the main points to share with colleagues.



2.2

For distribution to Society Training Officer's, and publication to all members

3

For Information

Match Observers App

I have been asked to circulate details of a Match Observer app which is the first app specifically designed to provide clear and structured reports on a referee's performance during a game.



Gerry O'Leary, the App's developer adds, 'a comment received during the pre-release testing phase was "this app may be the way to encourage the 'digital generation' of referee's to step up and become an observer". Hopefully this will ease the way forward for referees to start putting something back into the societies as their own careers with the whistle come to an end.

3.1

Another benefit is all the information and data is collated and presented in a clear format as the game progresses so there is an opportunity for the observer to complete the report within a short time of the end of the game and thus "get their Sunday back" and not have to spend hours in front of a PC transferring the data and writing a report.'

The attached flyer describes the app and the structured reports which are available; the links below take you to the web site and the App Store.

This link will take you the associated web page for the app where there are a couple of video user guides. <http://www.matchobserver.net>

This link will take you to the download page in iTunes.

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/match-observer/id910113428?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

For information and circulation