

IRFU Affiliate Referee Policy

It is IRFU policy that all rugby matches played under the Laws of the Game (incl. U19 Variations) are refereed by:

- Members of the Branch Referee Associations/Society *or*
- I.R.F.U. Affiliate Referees (appointed by their club / school).

AFFILIATE REFEREE CRITERIA

Over 18 years of age, and under the age of 60.

- Hold a current affiliate referee qualification.
- Appointed by a school or club, to which they are affiliated, to referee a match, or training session, in which that school or club is participating, home or away.
- Appointed by a school or club, to which they are affiliated, to referee at a 'blitz' or similar tournament in which that school or club is participating.

*Exception – Branch Development staff, who hold an affiliate referee qualification may, in the course of their duties, referee matches outside of their own club or school.

AFFILIATE REFEREES

- Are a refereeing resource within their club/school only. Responsibility for their appointment rests with their club/school.
- Are not available for appointment to matches by the Branch Referee Associations / Society.
- May also apply, if they wish, for full membership of their Provincial Referee Associations/Society.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

I.R.F.U Affiliate Referees qualify by:

- Registering on the I.R.F.U e-learning platform, Gainline.
- Completing the Laws of the Game **and** Concussion Management for General Public modules on the World Rugby Passport portal.
- Completing the I.R.F.U. Affiliate Referee course through Gainline.
- Qualification is valid for 2 years from the date of course completion.

BENEFITS

- IRFU third party liability insurance.
- Accreditation certificate with re-validation (expiry) season.
- Registered on IRFU/Provincial database as an Affiliate Referee.
- Regular updates from the I.R.F.U. on changes to the Laws of the Game.

OVERALL RATIONALE

- Improve refereeing standards.
- Address safety issues.
- Formalise the status of these referees.

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www.irishrugby.com   



IRFU

RESPONSIBILITIES

Affiliate Referees must:

- Keep up to date on all Law Changes & Rulings (these are updated regularly on both www.irishrugby.ie/referees and on World Rugby Website).
- Ensure their re-accreditation once qualification expires.
- Maintain appropriate fitness levels to allow them to safely officiate their assigned matches.

AFFILIATE REFEREES – RETIREMENT POLICY

The rationale for the following policy is to meet the essential duty of care owed to, and to endeavour to ensure the health and safety of all participants, both match officials and players.

- It is IRFU policy that referees will not officiate past their 60th birthday.
- This policy extends to Affiliate Referees.
- It is recognised that there may be occasional exceptions where an affiliate referee demonstrates a continued high level of fitness and ability levels. Therefore if a club/school is satisfied to appoint an affiliate referee to officiate after his/her 60th birthday, the affiliate referee must supply, to the club/school, a medical certificate indicating medical fitness to referee. This would be an annual requirement. In no case, however, should an affiliate referee be appointed past his/her 65th birthday.

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