



HAMPSHIRE RUGBY REFEREES
(Chairman – Terry Burwell)

HAMPSHIRE RUGBY REFEREES (HRR) YOUNG MATCH OFFICIAL (YMO) PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme is to develop the YMO as a person as well as to be the best match official that they can be, and to ensure a safe and supported transition to the adult game.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) recognise that YMOs are those referees between the ages of 16 and 24 inclusive at the start of the season. The aim of this document is to detail responsibilities for all parties involved in the YMO programme within Hampshire.

YMO & Parental Responsibilities

- Applicants to join the HRR YMO programme must have successfully completed the England Rugby Referee Award for the 15-a-side game (or its equivalent).
- They must be a member of club youth section that is affiliated to a Hampshire Rugby Football Union (HRFU).
- YMOs are to liaise with their clubs to arrange their games through their club.
- HRR will allocate appropriate games where practicable. YMOs are to keep the YMO coordinator fully informed of any games they are refereeing to arrange Match Official Developers where possible.
- YMOs should carry out a self-assessment after games, forms and guidance can be provided by HRR
- YMOs must only officiate within the RFU's regular season as per regulation 15 in the RFU handbook. They must obtain permission from the RFU to officiate at any tournament or similar outside this window.
- The YMO will not be appointed to adult matches until they have reached 17.5 years of age.
- YMOs MUST have a parent or legal guardian with them at all matches.
- Parent(s) / guardian(s) are to be fully involved in the process and decision making surrounding YMO activity.
- Parent(s) / Guardian(s) should remain with, and responsible for, the YMO at training events or matches, unless it is a pre-organised tournament or event with suitable DBS-checked supervision in place.
- YMOs are encouraged to carry on playing rugby and to engage with other sports.

Club Responsibilities.

- Clubs should be aware of the presence of YMOs within their club and encourage them on their refereeing journey.
- Clubs should liaise with YMOs and their parent(s) / guardian(s) to arrange suitable matches for them to referee noting that they can only referee a maximum of 2 years below their age group.
- Clubs, where practicable, should ensure that a mentor / coach is available pitch-side when a YMO is officiating; they **WILL** need support.
- Clubs are encouraged to give positive feedback post-match. "Negative" issues are development points and should be treated as such. Apportioning "blame" to YMOs is counter-



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productive and **NEVER** warranted. They are **DEVELOPING** their skillset and will inevitably not see, hear and act on everything.

- Clubs should ensure anyone mentoring a YMO is a current and active referee.
- Clubs are responsible to ensure all the members and players strictly adhere to RFU Core Values.
- Abuse of a YMO will be treated in **EXACTLY** the same way as you would an RFU Match Official. The same sanctions will also apply to the person(s) and associated club.
- Any referee under the age of 18 should not ever be invited to change / shower with adults, even if they are also referees. Clubs should ensure they have separate changing facilities (away from teams **AND** adult's). **If a club is unable to do this then a YMO should NOT be appointed.**
- Clubs should be aware of the gender of the officials and the need, where practicable, for separate changing facilities;

HRR Responsibilities

- Applicants to join the society's YMO programme must have successfully completed the England Rugby Referee Award for the 15-a-side game (or its equivalent). The HRR Membership Secretary will check GMS for this qualification prior to the YMO attending their first match.
- HRR will provide a suitable YMO Coordinator who will liaise with other committee members will oversee the programme. See annex A for organisation flow chart.
- HRR will provide advice to clubs with regard to ensuring that there is a safe environment in which they comfortable; RFU Safeguarding Policy **MUST** be followed at all times.
- The HRR Safeguarding Officer will ensure that appointed Match Official Developers are suitable to advise / coach YMOs.
- YMOs will **NOT** have access to HRR social media pages until their 18th birthday.
- Adult volunteers involved in the scheme are required to have a DBS check in accordance with the RFU policy.
- The programme is centred on the young persons' needs. Time will be made so that at each meeting/training event so the HRR YMO Coordinator (or suitable person) can meet with the YMOs and parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure the they are content with progress.
- After 3 games the YMO will receive RFU YMO shirt which will be presented at the next HRR Training Meeting or event.
- Once a graded member of HRR, the YMO will receive a HRR shirt and will be given access to the HRR Gilbert shop.
- HRR, subject to the YMO making themselves available for matches, will appoint a Match Official Developer or Coach to watch the YMO at a competitive match at least twice in the season. RFU Form 1 will be used for all matches where the YMO is watched below colts level.
- Active members of HRR are encouraged to aid YMOs at their clubs, however they **MUST** make contact with the YMO's Parent(s) / Guardian(s) and comply with RFU safeguarding regulations at all times.
- Appointments to matches are completed following YMO Appointment Guidelines. These are at Annex B.
- YMOs will be entitled to claim for travel as per the society's usual procedures when appointed by HRR.



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Terry Burwell
Chair HRR

ANNEXES

- A. HRR YMO Organisation
- B. HRR YMO Appointing Process

HRR YMO ORGANISATION



