



ADVANCED MATCH OFFICIAL AWARD

Pre-requisites & FAQs

Season 2023/24

To be considered for this course you must meet the following pre-requisites, and **it is your responsibility to ensure that your RFU GMS profile shows them**. If they do not appear on your RFU record when you attempt to book this may prevent your booking being accepted.

Checking Your GMS Profile

- You can check your RFU GMS profile here: <https://gms.rfu.com/GMS/Account/Login>
- Your referee society / club will be able to provide you with your login details. If you have forgotten your password or username you can use the 'Forgot Password' function.
- If your GMS profile is inaccurate you should contact the GMS help desk by using the following link: <https://help.rfu.com/support/home>
 - *Other RFU staff will not be able to help you to amend your profile so please ensure if there are any issues with your profile you have allowed enough time for GMS support to deal with your enquiry before trying to book.*

Course Descriptor Advanced Match Official Award (AMOA)

- Duration: 4 contact days plus full season programme
- Min. Age: 18 years of age
- Builds strongly on the England Rugby Referee Award qualification
- Consists of 11 modules, is a mixture of classroom-based activities, eLearning, and webinars which the candidate can then apply in their practice
- Is for active match officials who wish to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to officiating Rugby Union. The purpose is to develop the individual through these aspects over the period of the programme

Course Criteria

- Applicants are expected to have/be:
 - Completed England Rugby Referee Award qualification (or equivalent)
 - Completed RFU Headcase online concussion awareness within the last 12 months
 - Attended one match official CPD meeting / event in the previous 12 months
 - A valid DBS certificate (this DBS clearance must be approved by the RFU)
 - Actively officiating for the 2023/24 season (you will be reviewed against games at your current level)
 - 18 years of age or older. (as of September 1st, 2023)
- Complete the online application, to include submission of:
 - A 20-minute video showing your officiating
 - Your Rugby CV
 - Your Individual Rugby Development Plan (IDP)
 - This needs to be sent to matchofficials@rfu.com
(This will require your name, along with the title AMOA 2023/24 Application Evidence)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award?

The England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award has been developed to provide active match officials (whatever their role) with a national training curriculum that will help them to achieve a higher standard within their own officiating.

The programme adds to the suite of official England Rugby Match Officiating qualifications, which currently include:

- Introduction to Refereeing (Level 1)
- England Rugby Refereeing Award (Level 2)

The programme is aimed at active match officials who have completed the England Rugby Referee Award (or equivalent) and wish to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to officiating Rugby Union. The aim being to develop the individual through these aspects over the period of the programme:

- Core Values
- People Management
- Effective Communication
- Technical Understanding
- Physical Conditioning
- Self-Developer

To develop these aspects, the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** will cover four components, which are underpinned by an Individual Development Plan. The four components of the programme are:

- **Level 3 Match Officiating Qualification** – Covering Principles of Refereeing, Core Values, Developing Match Officials, Communication, Game Management, Foul Play, Team of Three, Breakdown, Scrum, Lineout & Maul and Space.
- **Sport Science** – Covering strength and conditioning, psychology and nutrition.
- **Practical Officiating** – Regularly performing as a match official either as a referee, assistant referee, Match Official Developer or Performance Reviewer.
- **Support** – Access to individuals who can provide advice, offer guidance and encourage reflection.

Why has the England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award been developed?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** has been developed to provide:

- An **integrated development pathway** for **all** match officials
- **National standards & learning curriculum**, applied locally
- Support a cohort of **highly skilled, motivated match officials** to officiate in the adult community 15-a-side game & developmental age grade rugby

Who is the England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award designed for?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** is aimed at those who are actively participating in match officiating who have completed the England Rugby Refereeing Award (or equivalent) and wish to further develop their skills, knowledge and understanding.

How will the England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award be delivered?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** will run with candidates expected to attend four face-to-face contact days, maintain an Individual Development Plan, complete online learning modules, contribute to webinars and to regularly officiate in the 15-a-side game.

The face-to-face sessions will take place during September, November, February and May at two different locations across England. In between these sessions, candidates are expected to source regular officiating appointments via clubs, referee societies, federations, schools, colleges, universities and other organisations.

Additionally, in between the face-to-face sessions, there will be a series of online learning modules for candidates to complete along with accessing webinar activities and maintaining an Individual Development Plan.

It is the responsibility of the individual candidates to record their learnings in their programme workbook as this will be the main source of evidence in relation to achieving the qualification component of the programme.

Who can apply to be part of the programme?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** is aimed at those actively involved in match officiating (Referees, Assistant Referees, Match Official Developers, Coaches, Performance Reviewers) who have completed the England Rugby Referee Award (or equivalent) and wish to further develop their skills, knowledge and understanding.

How do I apply to be part of the programme?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** allows for open applications. Potential candidates submit an online application and a 20-minute video of themselves officiating.

What are the criteria needed to apply to join the programme?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** is open to applications from all active match officials who have completed the England Rugby Referee Award (or equivalent).

Where will the programme be run from?

There will be two cohorts for the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**.

- North
- South

Is there a cost to joining the programme?

There will be no cost to candidates participating in the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** during the 2023-2024 season. Costs are being underwritten by the RFU.

Am I entitled to claim travelling expenses from the RFU after attending the face-to-face sessions?

Candidates will not be entitled to claim travelling expenses from the RFU for attending the face-to-face sessions of the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**.

Do I have to complete the programme to be considered for selection to the RFU National League Match Official Team (NLMOT)?

Yes, undertaking and successful completion of the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** is a prerequisite for those wishing to be considered for selection to the RFU NLMOT.

Does completing the programme guarantee me a place on the RFU National League Match Official Team (NLMOT)?

No, completing the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** does not provide a guaranteed place on the RFU NLMOT.

Is this a recognised, accredited qualification?

The qualification component has been developed to sit on the National Qualification Framework and this will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the appropriate standards.

When are the face-to-face sessions?

The face-to-face sessions are spread over four **Sundays** throughout the season. All successful candidates will be sent dates and venues well in advance to assist with planning / availability.

What happens if I cannot attend some of the face-to-face sessions?

The face-to-face sessions are staggered to allow those who cannot attend a session in his/her area an opportunity to attend the same session in one of the other areas. If attending an alternative session is not possible then the Programme Leader will manage any such occurrences on a case-by-case basis.

What happens if I get injured during the programme and cannot actively officiate?

If a candidate becomes unable to actively officiate during the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**, he/she will still be able to participate in the face-to-face sessions and complete the online learning and webinar components of the programme.

Will the RFU staff help to find appointments for me as part of the programme?

No, the Match Official Development Team will **not** be responsible for sourcing appointments for candidates participating in the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**. Appointments should be sourced via local clubs, schools, universities, Referees' Societies, Federations and other appointing organisations.

Does this programme replace existing Referees' Society and Development Squads?

No, the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** is in addition to any current development squads and is there to complement any such existing training programmes.

Is there a minimum fitness requirement that I need to achieve to be eligible to apply for the programme?

No, the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** does not have a minimum fitness requirement.

Can I choose my own person to support me through the programme?

Yes, the Match Official Development Team can also assist you to identify a support person for the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**.

How many places on the programme are there, both regionally and nationally?

During the previous three seasons approximately 95 individuals in total, nationally, were invited to participate in the **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award**.

Who selects the candidates from the applicants?

The Match Official Development Team will process the applications in line with the standard processes set out by the RFU Training & Education Team.

If I apply and do not get selected, do I receive detailed feedback, and can I reapply in the future?

No, unsuccessful candidates will not receive detailed individual feedback but will not be prevented from reapplying.

Why is it a programme and not just a course? How does it work?

The **England Rugby Advanced Match Official Award** provides candidates with an opportunity to develop a broad range of skills, which will need to be demonstrated over a period. Development opportunities continue in between the face-to-face days, with candidates expected to implement their key learnings into their own practical officiating.