



WHAT IS THE INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING?

The England Rugby Introduction to Refereeing (ItR) course introduces key concepts around safety, equity, and enjoyment of refereeing. Covering all essential aspects of the game, the Introduction to Refereeing allows candidates to undertake both practical and self-directed theoretical learning for game management and law application.

WHO IS THE INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING FOR?

This course is a great way to start your refereeing journey, it is a FREE course giving you the skills and knowledge to begin officiating rugby in the youth and adult game; up to U14s youth, RFU Men's Counties 3, RFU Women's National Challenge 2, BUCS Men's Tier 3, BUCS Women's Tier 2 (as indicated in the England Rugby Refereeing Environments Appointments Guidance).

Course candidates must be a minimum of 14 years of age at the time of booking the course.

To officiate higher level games than those listed above, we strongly recommend completion of the England Rugby Refereeing Award.

WHAT IS COVERED ON THE COURSE?

The Introduction to Refereeing course aims to equip Match Officials with fundamental refereeing skills and tools, based on our principles of refereeing; Safety, Equity & Enjoyment, Learning and Laws. Using several bite-sized e-learning modules as well as face to face learning, candidates can learn on-demand.

By the end of the programme, you will:

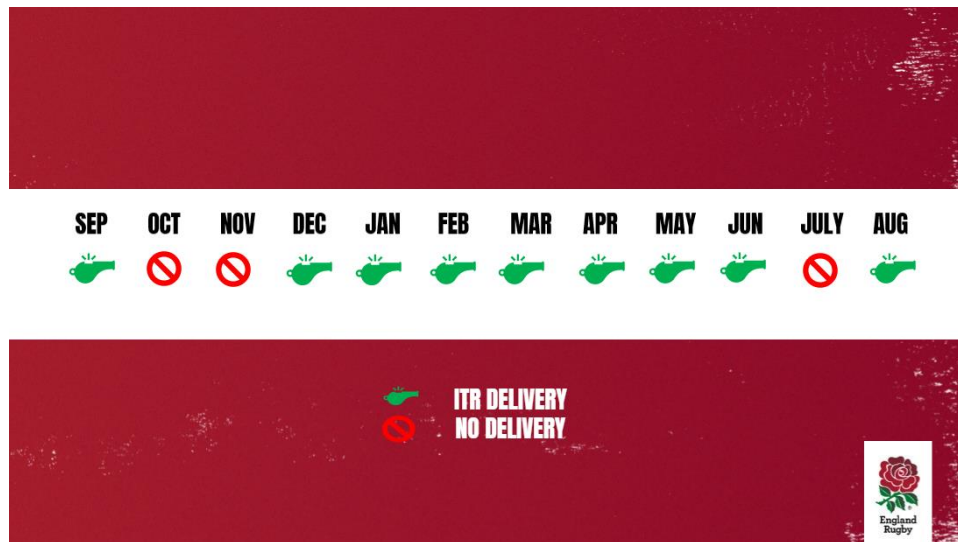
- Understand fundamental skills needed to referee
- Understand how to communicate effectively when refereeing
- Have an understanding around key areas of the game and essential law application
- Promote player welfare and manage player behaviours during a game
- Appreciate the principles of refereeing

HOW LONG IS THE COURSE?

In total, the course is 6 hours which consists of 2.5 hours of self-directed e-learning (1 hour pre-course, 1.5 hours post-course), one 3 hour face-to-face session, which has a key focus on practical refereeing and additional time built in for reflection.

REQUESTOR REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSTING AN INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING COURSE

- Those looking to organise courses (requestors) can do so by following the Course Organisation Flowchart (see next page).
- Agree a course delivery date with your local RFU Educator avoiding the months of October, November and July.



Pre-course planning

- A representative of the organisation (club, school, college, university etc.) and tutor should have a pre-course briefing to discuss the venue requirements and logistics.
- A room should be made exclusively available for the course. A designated tutor space should be set out at the front of the room.
- A minimum of 40m x 40m outdoor space is required, with floodlights September - April
- The requestor's venue risk assessment should be shared with the tutor pre-course.

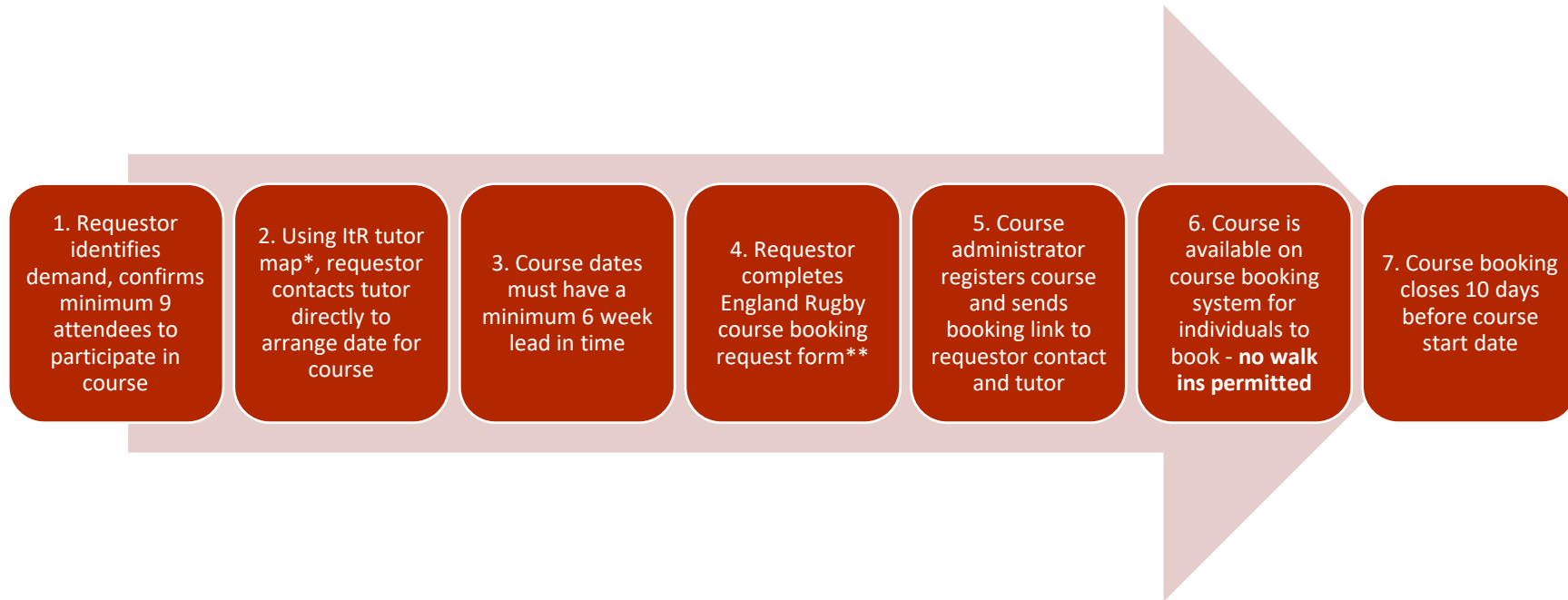
Candidate pre-course requirements

- All candidates MUST register for the course using GMS. U18s must be registered by their parent/guardian.
- Pre-course e-learning modules are sent immediately upon booking as part of the candidate's GMS booking confirmation.
- No walk-ins permitted on the day.
- Block booking is NOT available.
- Registration closes 10 days before course date.

Course Date

- The tutor must be given adequate time to set up their delivery equipment and the room appropriately.
- A venue representative must be available to give a briefing and 'walk around' of the venue with any relevant points from the risk assessment discussed.
- The room should be set up as agreed with the tutor in the pre-course planning discussions.

INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING COURSE BOOKING PROCESS



* [RFU Educator Map - Introduction to Refereeing](#)

** [Introduction to Refereeing Booking Request](#)