



# COACH AND MATCH OFFICIAL STANDARDS

As of July 2022



# Coaching & Match Officiating Standards

July 2022

As part of Scottish Rugby’s strategy to raise the quality of coaching and officiating at all levels of the game, a new set of standards have been launched.

To be an active coach or match official in the club or school game, the standards set out below are required to be met. The standards aim to...

- support coaches and match officials develop the right knowledge and skills for their role.
- raise standards of player welfare and safeguarding, specifically regarding concussion management and injury prevention.
- improve the player experience and retention rates through improving the quality of coaching and match officiating at all levels.

Minimum Coaching Standards	Recommended Coaching Standards
<p><b>Season 2022-23</b> - All coaches are required...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be registered on the SCRUMS system.</li> <li>• To complete the online RugbyRight course when required. For season 2022/23, only those who did not complete the course in 2021/22 need to complete it.</li> <li>• To be a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) membership scheme (if coaching mini or youth).</li> </ul> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: As of August 2024</b> – Coaches actively involved with the delivery of contact rugby (P4/U9 and above) will be required to have completed a coaching qualification (any level – see appendix 1 for further details and rationale).</p>	<p>It is recommended that coaches of all age groups undertake the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaching Essentials (replaced the UKCC Level 1 in 2020) and the Aspiring Coaching Programme (replaced the UKCC Level 2 in 2021)</li> <li>• World Rugby First Aid in Rugby Level 1</li> <li>• World Rugby Conditioning for Children/Youth</li> <li>• Introduction to Match Officiating</li> </ul> <p>Coaches delivering Boys and Girls Youth (U16-U18) and Adult Male and Female rugby are recommended to undertake the Advanced Coaching Programme (replaced the UKCC Level 3 in 2022).</p>

Coaching Standards FAQs are available in Appendix 1.

Minimum Match Officiating Standards	Recommended Match Officiating Standards
<p>All match officials in the youth and adult game are required...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be registered on the SCRUMS system.</li> <li>• To complete the online RugbyRight course when required. For season 2022/23, only those who did not complete the course in 2021/22 need to complete it.</li> <li>• To have completed the Introduction to Match Officiating course (or the old Level 1) before officiating a game.</li> <li>• To have completed the World Rugby Laws of the Game e-learning module.</li> </ul>	<p>It is recommended that match officials complete the Aspiring Match Officials course (replaced the Level 2 in 2022).</p> <p>Referees/game coaches in mini rugby are not required to be qualified, however Scottish Rugby recommends that they attend the Mini Rugby Refereeing Course.</p>

Match Official Standards FAQs are available in Appendix 2.



# Appendix 1 - Coaching Standards

As of August 2024, all coaches of contact rugby (P4/U9 and above) will be required to have completed a coaching qualification to operate as an active coach. This requirement is in addition to the need for coaches to complete the RugbyRight online course (when required) and for mini and youth coaches to be a member of the PVG membership scheme.

## Why are these minimum standards coming into place?

- To improve the player experience by improving coaching standards throughout all the game.
- To improve player welfare standards through the game by ensuring all coaches have undergone concussion awareness training.
- To ensure that all coaches of contact rugby understand how to safely coach the tackle

## What if I don't possess a qualification beyond August 2024?

- As of August 2024 coaches who do not possess a qualification will not be permitted to coach contact rugby in training or be coach a team involved in any of Scottish Rugby's competitions.
- Beyond August 2024 people who wish to start coaching contact rugby or coach within a Scottish Rugby competition must undertake a coaching qualification within 3 months of starting coaching.

## Which qualifications are acceptable?

- Any level of the current coaching qualifications delivered by Scottish Rugby:
  - Coaching Essentials (entry level)
  - Aspiring Coaching Programme
  - Advanced Coaching Programme
- Old UKCC qualifications (c.2006-2019) are also acceptable.
- Pre-UKCC qualifications (c.2005 and earlier) are not acceptable. Coaches who possess a pre-UKCC qualification will be required to complete a new qualification. Please contact your regional Game Development Manager to find out more information.

## Is there an expiry date on my coaching qualification?

- No. Coaching qualifications do not have an expiry date. There is therefore no requirement to retake a qualification or complete the next course in the pathway.
- Scottish Rugby recommends that coaches progress through the coaching qualification pathway as they gain more experience. Each coaching qualification has been designed to support your progression and can be tailored to meet your needs.

# Appendix 1 - Coaching Standards

## How do I sign up to a course?

- Coaches can sign-up to courses by visiting the [Scottish Rugby website](#) or the [SCRUMS registration system](#).
- If clubs wish to arrange a course specifically for their coaches then they should contact their regional Game Development Manager.

# Appendix 2 - Match Officiating Standards

To officiate a youth or adult match, you referees must have completed either the Introduction to Match Officiating, or old Level 1 course.

The Introduction to Match Officiating course is aimed at those interested in refereeing rugby in the youth and adult game (S1/U13 and above). Match Officials must be minimum 15 years of age to complete the course. Once complete, you will be permitted to referee in Scotland.

The Introduction to Match Officiating course aims to equip match officials with fundamental refereeing skills and tools.

By the end of the course learners will:

- Understand the fundamental refereeing skills
- Be able to apply the essential laws of the game
- Promote player welfare and manage player behaviours during a game
- Appreciate the principles of refereeing

The course also includes a tackle/contact safety session to ensure safe practice at all levels of the game, and to raise awareness of concussion protocols.

Attendees must be a minimum of 15 years of age to complete the course. The course is free of charge.

## **Why are these standards in place?**

- To ensure match officials are safe to officiate a match
- To improve the quality of officiating at all levels

## **Can I referee if I completed by Level 1 back in 2002?**

- As long as you have completed the other standards – World Rugby laws course and RugbyRight – then yes, you can referee a match.
- Scottish Rugby recommends that if you haven't been active for 4 or more seasons then you should consider completing a new course to gain up to date information on laws and player welfare.

# Appendix 2 - Match Officiating Standards

## Is there an expiry date on my match official qualification?

- No. refereeing qualifications do not have an expiry date. There is therefore no requirement to retake a qualification or complete the next course in the pathway.
- Scottish Rugby recommends that match officials progress through the qualification pathway as they gain more experience.

## How do I sign up to a course?

- Match Officials can sign-up to courses by visiting the [Scottish Rugby website](#) or the [SCRUMS registration system](#).

**SCOTTISH RUGBY**

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