

OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE • 2026/27

REFEREE PRE- SEASON BRIEFING

MON 1 SEPTEMBER 19:30 ONLINE • MS TEAMS



WHAT WE'LL COVER



01 LEAGUE OVERVIEW

02 OUR ETHOS

03 HOW WE OPERATE

04 REFEREE FEES

05 IFAB LAW CHANGES

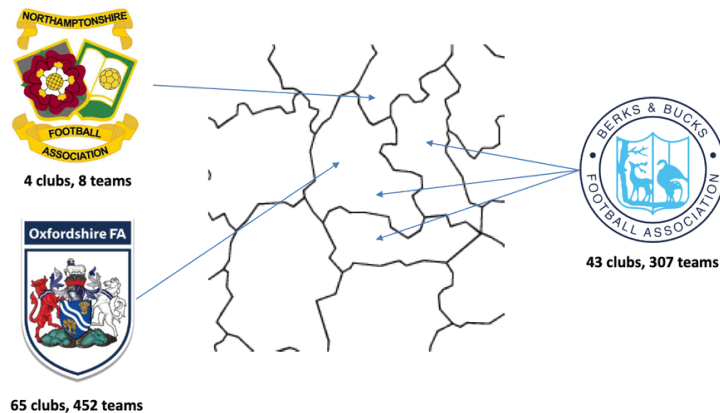
06 FAQs AND QUESTIONS

OYFL IN NUMBERS



SEASON	CLUBS	TEAMS	PLAYERS
2020/21	95	573	7,944
2021/22	95	614	8,609
2022/23	97	644	9,136
2023/24	104	694	10,007
2024/25	116	757	10,970
2025/26	112	767	10,586
2026/27	106	775	11,000 est.

THREE COUNTY FAs



Teams affiliate through Oxfordshire FA, Berks & Bucks FA and Northamptonshire FA. Appointments cover the whole footprint.

OUR ETHOS



SUPPORT AND MENTORING

New to refereeing or experienced — every referee is supported, mentored and looked after.

SCHEDULING AND COMMUNICATION

Appointments are allocated around the availability you log — we work with you, not around you.

REFEREE COMMUNITY

A community you can use, trust and rely on for anything referee related.

TECHNOLOGY

Tools that take the admin off your matchday so you can focus on refereeing.

PROMOTION SUPPORT

Working towards promotion? We will help you find the right games for it.

YOUR PREFERENCES

We always try to match your preferred locations and age groups.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS



100%

Coverage milestones reached on more matchdays than any previous season, with appointment volume up again.

01 Priority appointments run from U21 down to U13, with flexibility for U12 where referees are available.

02 Appointments are released midweek through Full-Time and Centre Circle.

03 Spare games are advertised in Centre Circle — first come, first served.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE



CENTRE CIRCLE

MANDATORY

Log your availability by opening dates in the app. A desktop site is available if you prefer.



EMAIL

OFFICIAL

Separate lists for 18+ referees and younger referees (guardian permission required). Tell us if nothing arrives once the season starts.



IN-APP CHAT

SAME DAY

We aim to answer every message the same day, usually within a few hours.



WHATSAPP GROUP

OPTIONAL

Urgent updates, bulletins and the occasional match request are posted here.



WHO TO CONTACT

REFEREES

referees@oyfl.uk

Appointments and
matchday queries.

REFEREE SUPPORT

refereesupport@oyfl.uk

Requests and reports, observing
and mentoring.

CENTRE CIRCLE

support@centrecircleapp.com

App support queries — copy in
referee support.



REFEREE FEES

AGE GROUP	FORMAT	REFEREE	ASSISTANT
Under 8	5v5	£20.00	n/a
Under 9 – Under 10	5v5, 7v7	£25.00	n/a
Under 11 – Under 12	7v7, 9v9	£30.00	£25.00
Under 13 – Under 14	9v9, 11v11	£35.00	£30.00
Under 15 – Under 16	11v11	£40.00	£35.00
Under 17 – Under 21	11v11	£45.00	£35.00

Clubs pay within 48 hours of the fixture; cash is paid on the day.



GAME MANAGEMENT

LAW 3

NOW MANDATORY

ONLY THE CAPTAIN

Mandatory in all competitions this season. Invoke it and only the captain may approach for discussions; non-compliant players can be cautioned.

LAW 5

NEW TOOL

COOLING OFF PERIODS

Available at Step 7 and below, Women's Tier 5 and below, and county cups. Pause the game, players go to their own penalty areas. Maximum two per game, reported to the competition.

LAW 5

CLARIFIED

INJURY TREATMENT

Clearer rules on when a treated player must leave the field for one minute, and the exceptions — goalkeepers, collisions, head injuries and penalty takers.

RESTARTS AND DISCIPLINE

LAWS 15 & 16

NEW SIGNAL

COUNTDOWN RESTARTS

A five-second visual countdown for delayed throw-ins and goal kicks. Failure to comply hands the restart to the opposition — throw-in to throw-in, goal kick to corner.

LAW 3

TIMED

TIME LIMITED SUBS

Ten seconds to leave the pitch when substituted. If exceeded, the substitute waits for the next stoppage after one minute. U18s must leave at the technical area for safeguarding.

LAW 12

MINOR IMPACT

DOGSO CHANGES

No caution for DOGSO where advantage is played and a goal is scored. Attackers are now included in DOGSO considerations.

01 Clubs must use you as the league appointed referee.

02 Clubs must contact you by phone, text, email or Centre Circle and get a response — three days before the match, and by Friday evening at the latest.

03 If a club fails to confirm with you, you are under no obligation to attend the fixture.

04 If a club does not contact you and the kick-off time or venue changes, you still receive the match fee if you attend the original details.

05 Complete the match report in Centre Circle, adding team sheets for U12 and above.

06 Payment is due within 48 hours of the fixture, or on the day if paid in cash.

07 For postponements on the day, clubs must call you. Email, WhatsApp and text are not sufficient.

USEFUL LINKS



FA REFEREE PORTAL

referees.thefa.com

IFAB LAW CHANGES

theifab.com/law-changes/latest

CENTRE CIRCLE

centrecircleapp.com

BEHIND THE WHISTLE

youtube.com/@Behind.TheWhistle

OVER TO YOU

QUESTIONS

Anything we don't cover tonight, email referees@oyfl.uk and we'll answer it in the first update of the season.



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