

Referee Registration 2026 - 2027:

Guidance for Referees



Guidance Notes for Referees:

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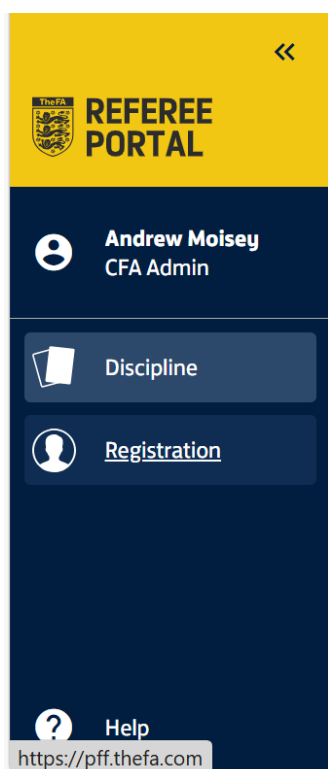
Completing your Referee Registration

Referee Registration for the 2026 – 2027 season will open on the 1st June 2026 using Platform for Football. **Please do not try to register before this date as the system will not allow you to do so.**

This can be completed by using the following link:

<https://referees.thefa.com/>

Once logged into the referee portal, to complete your referee registration for the 2026/2027 season please click the Referee Registration Tab (see below):



Prior to completing your referee registration, please ensure you read the remainder of these guidelines.

It is an FA requirement that Referees register each year with their Parent County FA; to do this, referees are encouraged to complete their referee registration online for the 2026 – 2027 season.

Should you not wish to do so then please scroll to the bottom of this guide. However, you should complete your referee registration as soon as possible.



When completing your referee registration please ensure the following:

- Your Personal Details are correct.
- Your Address including Post Code is correct.
- Email Address is correct.
- Mobile Telephone Number is correct.
- That your FA Safeguarding and FA DBS (where applicable) are in date, for more information see ([FA Safeguarding and FA DBS requirements](#))

Where applicable:

- Emergency Contact details are updated.

Additional Products; during your referee registration you will be able to purchase the Following additional products:

- Referee Personal Accident Insurance.
- Referee Badge.



FA Safeguarding and FA DBS Requirements

All referees must hold a valid FA Safeguarding qualification before they can complete their referee registration. We recommend completing the Safeguarding For All course, which is free.

If you currently have an in-date Safeguarding Children qualification, you will be compliant and able to register, provided you also meet any other relevant requirements, depending on the age groups you wish to officiate.

If you currently have an in-date Safeguarding Children qualification, you will be compliant and able to register, provided you also meet any other relevant requirements, depending on the age groups you wish to officiate.

Once your Safeguarding Children qualification expires, we recommend renewing this by completing the Safeguarding For All course.

Referees aged 16 and over who officiate in youth football must also have an FA DBS check that is complete and in date at all times.

Referees turning 16

If you are a young referee and you turn 16, you have 21 days from your 16th birthday to:

- start your FA DBS application so that it shows as in progress on your FA record; and/or
- complete the Safeguarding For All course or hold an in-date accepted FA safeguarding qualification, if this is not already showing on your FA account.

This means you should not wait until your next registration window. You should take action as soon as you turn 16.

Renewing an expired FA DBS or Safeguarding qualification

If you already have an FA DBS check or an FA safeguarding qualification, you must make sure they remain in date.

If either your FA DBS or safeguarding qualification expires, you have 21 days from the expiry date to renew or complete the required action.



This applies, whatever your age.

For example:

- if your safeguarding qualification expires, you have 21 days from the expiry date to complete the required course again;
- if your FA DBS expires, you have 21 days from the expiry date to start or complete your FA DBS renewal;
- If both expire, you must complete both requirements within the 21-day grace period from the date of expiry.

Referees who do not meet the required FA Safeguarding or FA DBS requirements may be prevented from registering or officiating until their records are updated.

If your FA DBS or safeguarding qualification expires and you do not renew within the 21-day grace period, you will be suspended from refereeing until you are shown as compliant again on FA systems.

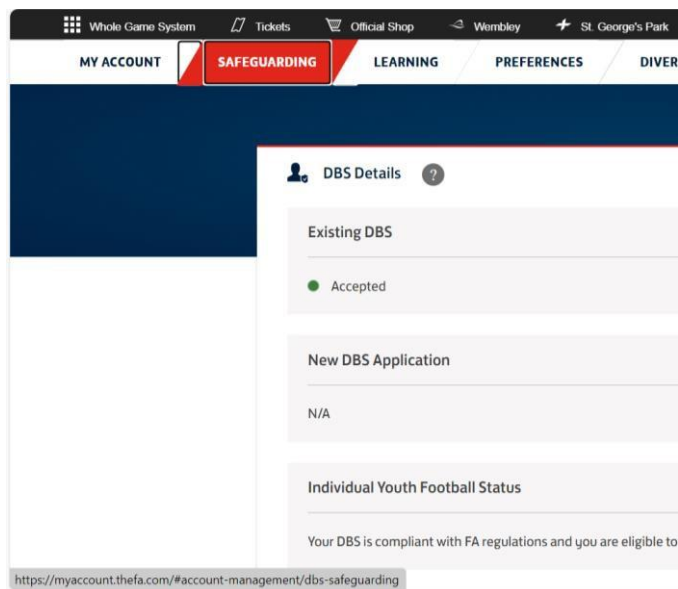
Situation	What you need to do	Deadline
I am under 16	You need a valid FA Safeguarding Qualification	Before registration
I have just turned 16	Start your FA DBS application and complete Safeguarding For All (if needed)	Within 21 days of your 16 th Birthday and before registration
I am 16 or over and referee youth football	You need a valid FA DBS and in date FA Safeguarding for All Qualification	Before registration and before officiating in youth football
My FA DBS has expired	Start or complete your FA DBS renewal	Within 21 day of the expiry date
My Safeguarding For All/Safeguarding for Children Qualification has expired	Complete Safeguarding for All again or for the first time if you have not completed this before	Within 21 days of the expiry date
Both have expired	Complete both actions	Within 21 days of the expiry date
I only want to Officiate Adult Football	Complete the Safeguarding for ALL course only. No DBS required but CANNOT officiate any youth games.	Before Registration



To check the status of your FA Safeguarding please use the following link:

<https://myaccount.thefa.com/>

Once logged in please click the Safeguarding Tab within your account, you will then be able to see both your FA Safeguarding and FA DBS Status.



In the event you need to renew your FA Safeguarding you will need to do the following:

- Complete the **Safeguarding For All** course as soon as possible.
- The course is **free**.
- It takes around **60 minutes** to complete.
- Once completed, it is valid for **2 years**.
- You can access the course here:
<https://learn.englishfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-for-all>

PLEASE NOTE HAVING COMPLETED YOUR ONLINE SAFEGUARDING COURSE. IT CAN TAKE A FURTHER 24 HOURS FOR THE MAIN FA DATABASE TO UPDATE; YOU SHOULD THEN BE ABLE TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION ONLINE.

FA DBS Requirements – It is an FA requirement **that all referees aged 16 years of age and above** who are officiating **"Youth Football"** **MUST** have completed an FA DBS Check which is valid.

Referees who do not hold a valid FA Safeguarding Qualification or in-date FA DBS (if applicable) will be prevented from registering until this is complete.

If you do not currently hold an FA DBS Check or you require to renew this, please contact either:

Cameron Davis – Cameron.Davis@HampshireFA.Com or Andy Moisey – Andy.Moisey@HampshireFA.Com



Additional Guidance

- **How does a referee under the age of 16 re-register?**

Further guidance on registering and providing consent for referees who are under the age of 16 years of age can be obtained from the following link:

[How does a Referee Under the age of 16 re-register?](#)

- **Do I need to register with the leagues that I have previously officiated?**

Referees will need to ensure that they have registered with their League and made contact with the relevant referee appointment secretary. For further details please use the link below:

[Referee Appointment Secretaries 2026-2027](#)

- **How do I reset my password to access my account?**

If you have forgotten your password or need to reset your password, then please click

[Reset Password](#)

- **I still cannot register or I am having issues with my Registration!**

If you are still having issues in trying to complete your referee registration, **please use the link below to raise a ticket with Grassroots Technology so they can investigate further, please provide as much information as possible (including a screenshot if applicable)**

[Submit a ticket : Grassroots Technology](#)

- **I am having issues completing my FA Safeguarding Qualification!**

If you are still having issues in trying to complete your FA Safeguarding please **use the link below to raise a ticket with FA Education so that they can investigate further, please provide as much information as possible (including a screenshot if applicable)**

[Submit a ticket: FA Education](#)



Can I register offline?

As you have access to email, referees are expected to complete their referee registration online, as this will ensure that The FA captures all the correct details for the upcoming season.

Should you not wish to register online using Referee Registration for the 2026 – 2027 then please contact the County FA, however manual registration should only be used as a last resort.

