



CRRS September 2026 meeting



15th September
at Truro RFC





Agenda

- Committee members' updates
- 2026/27 law changes
- Key Referee Skills
 - The Breakdown
 - Communication in four words

Will W
Simon T
- Law in focus – Law 5 Time
- Referee recruitment & retention
- Q&A



Committee members' updates

- Appointments/availability
- Subs/Expenses glynCRRSfinance@outlook.com
- Web site/social media
- DBS & Safeguarding
- England Rugby Learning Platform



Cornwall RFU Development Day
Sunday 11th October 2026
@ St Austell RFC

Ready2Ref
Play It Safe

**Book via England Rugby Learning
(not GMS anymore)**

Cornwall RFU
3d · 🌐

REGISTER NOW - CRFU Development Day 2026

🍌 Whether you're a coach, referee, first aider or rugby volunteer, there's something for everyone at this year's Cornwall RFU Development Day!

📅 Sunday 11 October 2026... See more

CRFU ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

The development day opens at 9.00
Courses will be running from 09.30

Sunday 11th October 2026

📍 St Austell RFC
Tregonick Rd., St Austell PL26 7EH

The following courses and opportunities will be delivered during the day:

- Developing Coaching Practice (Please book through England Rugby Learning)
- Play It Safe (Please book through England Rugby Learning)
- Ready2Ref (Please book through England Rugby Learning)
- CRFU Coaching Clinics (Please book using the Google Form)
- First Aid (Please book using the Google Form)

Please ensure that you complete your booking through the appropriate system and any required pre-course learning before attending.



England Rugby Learning Platform

- Just another GMS ?

England Rugby Learning (ERL)

We recognise that understanding of **England Rugby Learning (ERL)** currently varies across referee societies.

This session will provide an opportunity to discuss how we can better support societies and their members in making full use of ERL.

Topics will include:

- How to navigate the platform
- What is available on ERL
- The Active Match Official Badge



**England
Rugby *Learning***



#BePartOfTheTeam

© England Rugby Match Official Development 2026/27

England Rugby Learning - Headlines



- App based
- Active Match Official/Coach Badges
- All courses booked through England Rugby Learning
- Much broader face to face and digital training offer
- Free/Paid For/Subscription content
- Communities
- Better active participant data (linked to GMS records)



Active Match Official Badge



- The Active Match Official Badge is designed to help you prepare for the season ahead and meet the minimum standards for your role.
- It combines essential learning with optional modules, giving you clear, relevant development and resets each year to keep you up to date.



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Welcome

Log in to your England Rugby account or you can use your GMS credentials to migrate your details and create an England Rugby account.



Reset password

By logging in or creating an account, you agree to the England Rugby [terms and conditions](#). England Rugby will process your personal data in accordance with our [privacy notice](#).

[Need help?](#)

Continue

Don't have an account? you can [sign-up here](#).

Hello, Simon.

Welcome to England Rugby Learning

[My Learning](#)



Learner Home
Discover learning opportunities



Communities
Interact with other Coaches, Match Officials & Volunteers



Learning Search
Conduct searches and filtering of training



Calendar
Book upcoming courses



External Training
Record 'Outside' Training



Training Record
View your active and completed training



0 Completions
0 Hours
0 Badges

Your topics

Edit

Match Officiating

Your language(s)

Your playlists

0 Created 0 Followers 0 Followed

Training record View

0 OVERDUE 7 DUE SOON 0 ASSIGNED / NO DUE DATE

DUE SOON

Active Match Official Badge- Adult

Started Due on 31/01/2027

Open curriculum

Introduction to Safeguarding

Registered Due on 31/01/2027

Launch

Introduction to Match Officiating

Registered Due on 31/01/2027

Launch

Hello Simon! What would you like to learn today?

Search for learning



ENSURE YOU HAVE ADDED YOUR LEARNING PREFERENCES & TOPIC INTERESTS

By selecting your learning preferences, we can recommend relevant courses, resources, and updates aligned to how you support the game.

Your Learning Preferences

Where did you last stop?



Curriculum
Active Match Official
Badge- Adult

Started

Open curriculum



Online Course
Introduction to Match
Officiating

Registered

Launch



Online Course
Introduction to
Safeguarding

Registered

Launch



Online Course
Activate- Match
Officials

Registered

Launch

Most Popular Learning



Active Match Official Badge- Adult

Started

0%

Due : 31/01/2027

4 Hours

2.0

Active Match Official Module Adult

0/2

Introduction to Match Officiating
45 Minutes

World Rugby Law Updates 2026/2027
30 Minutes

Introduction to Safeguarding Module

0/1

Player Welfare Modules

0/2

Post-Curriculum Completion Activities

0/0

Introduction to Match Officiating

Started 45 Minutes 1.0



Exit course



EXIT COURSE



Having trouble? [Load course in a new tab](#)



Can't find what you need?

Version: 25.2.1.24
Powered by Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc. ©2020-2024

Active Match Official Badge - Adult

Started 0%

Due: 31/01/2027 4 Hours 2.0

Active Match Official Module Adult

0/2

Introduction to Match Officiating

45 Minutes

World Rugby Law Updates 2026/2027

30 Minutes

Introduction to Safeguarding Module

0/1

Player Welfare Modules

0/2

Headcase Concussion Awareness Module: Match Officials

30 Minutes

Activate- Match Officials

30 Minutes

LooseHead: Introduction to Mental Health

30 Minutes

Introduction to Match Officiating

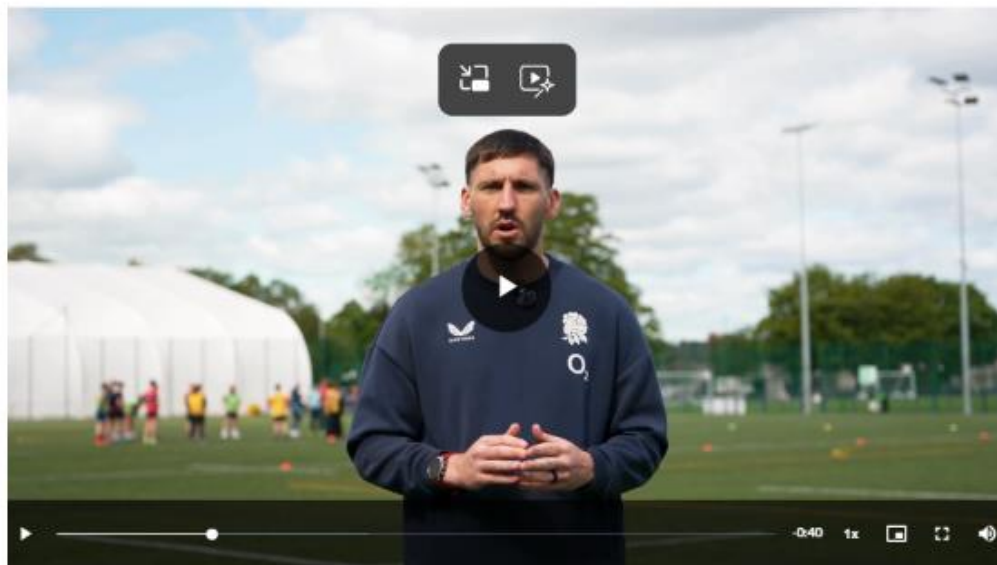
Started 45 Minutes 1.0



Exit course



EXIT COURSE



Having trouble? [Load course in a new tab](#)

Active Match Official Badge- Adult

Started 0%

Due : 31/01/2027 4 Hours 2.0

- Active Match Official Module Adult 0/2
- Introduction to Safeguarding Module 0/1
- Player Welfare Modules 0/2
 - Headcase Concussion Awareness Module: Match Officials 30 Minutes
 - Activate- Match Officials 30 Minutes**
 - LooseHeadz: Introduction to Mental Health 30 Minutes
 - First Responder 45 Minutes
- Post- Curriculum Completion Activities 0/0

Activate- Match Officials

Started 30 Minutes 1.0



ACTIVATE INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAMME- MATCH OFFICIALS

START READING

Activate is England Rugby's injury-prevention exercise programme, designed to be built into training and pre-match routines. It develops functional strength, core stability, balance and agility to meet the physical demands of rugby better.

Having trouble? [Load course in a new tab](#)

Exit course



Can't find what you need?

Version: 25.2.1.24
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Law Changes – an easier season

1. Brake foot at scrum becomes full law
2. **Community tackle height limits added to law (RFU is base of the sternum and ANY head contact)**
3. Some rare in-goal restarts changed from 22DOs to try-line drop outs for consistency
4. Newer GLTs (60 second conversions, **protect the 9**, & non-contested not-straight lineouts) remain for another year
5. Plus 50+ minor wording amends to make it easier to read laws, tidy up errors/omissions, or remove inconsistencies



Key Referee Skills

- The Breakdown Will W
- Communication in four words Simon T



Key Referee Skills

The Breakdown

Will W



What are your priorities ?

- Tackle
 - Tackler
 - Ball carrier
 - Breakdown
 - Back foot / offside lines
 - Does this change per level?
-
- How can your positioning help you?



The logo for Advantage Rugby Referees is contained within a white rectangular border. It features a stylized orange and green signal icon to the left of the word "ADVANTAGE" in green, with "RUGBY REFEREES" in white below it.

ADVANTAGE
RUGBY REFEREES

RUNNING LINES & POSITIONING

with **CRAIG JOUBERT**

Key Takeaways

- “Sprint then walk”
- Early position at ruck!
- No right or wrong place to stand if you are credible and have clear view of the breakdown
- 45-degree angle to check offside lines
- Get in – prevent – get out



Any
Questions ??





Key Referee Skills

Communication in Four Words

Simon T





Six Communication Principles

(thanks to Christophe Ridley PGMOT & Chris Bartlett Reg1 SW MOT)

- Say a little as possible to effectively manage the game and prevent “white noise”
- **If you have to speak, use no more than 4 words**
- All CRRS referees should try to use the same phrases to gain consistency and player understanding
- Is the communication clear, non-ambiguous and precise ?
- Start with Colour/Number to ensure the correct person is listening/identified
- Maximum say it twice, once preferred - any more will make you sound like you are second guessing yourself



Breakdown “What Four Words” first with Colour/Number

Example :

“Red 7 Tackle” – release ?

(no need to say any more as every one's job is defined in law but vary expectations by level of game).

At levels 6-8 use only if there is uncertainty when defenders are trying to hold up the ball carrier

At lower levels and age-groups use for clarity & explanation



Breakdown “What Four Words” All with Colour/Number

In your groups come up with standard wording to use at each phase of the tackle/ruck

In 15 minutes we will then compare, discuss, and agree on them



Breakdown “What Four Words”

“Tackle” (no need to say any more as every one’s job is defined in law) – only if there is uncertainty when defenders are trying to hold up the ball carrier

“High Tackle” “Above Sternum” “Head Contact” “No Arms”

“Roll Away” – only use if there is time, but 99% of the time, if you have to say this, they have got an advantage, so consider just penalising

“Off Feet” – if the jackler is competing illegally and there is no receiver, so time for the preventative

“No clear lift” “Missed jackle” “Beyond ball” (with palms down signal)

“On Feet” – before they enter tackle or ruck, if there is a negative trend that you have spoken to them about or you have spotted at a previous breakdown which was not material

“Back Foot” “Holding On” “Hands In” “Side Entry”

“Ruck (formed)” “Off Side” “Step Back”



“What Four Words”

To follow :

October – scrum

November – lineout/maul

December – open play



Laws Focus - Law 5 TIME

The Law states:

5.5 The referee may stop play and allow time for:

- a. Player injury for up to one minute.
- If a player is seriously injured, the referee has the discretion to allow more than one minute for that player to be removed from the playing area.
- b. Consultation with other officials.

5.6 Once the ball **is already dead**, the referee may allow time for:

- a. Replacement of players.
- b. Replacing or repairing players' clothing.
- c. Re-tying a boot-lace.
- d. Retrieving the ball.



Laws Focus - Law 5 TIME (Captains)

Only allow captains to approach you **when time off has been called**

- You can reserve the right not to be spoken to
- No discussion at a penalty kick or try being scored
- Captains can only ask for clarification on their team decisions and **not be allowed to include anything about their opposition**
- Lead the communication, so players and captains should listen and only speak when invited to. Use the term “you” and not “we”.



Recruitment & Retention, and Development

- We are Volunteers – priorities are family, self, work, and then rugby
- Recruit a friend / ex-team-mate
- Talent spot and feedback to Committee
- Ready2Ref courses with RFU and CRFU
- Training, Mentoring, & Development to meet your ambitions
- Dealing with Match Official Abuse - #1 reason refs stop

Ready 2 Ref in Cornwall

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LOCATION	CURRENTLY REGISTERED	COMPLETED	CAF
05/09/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South Central	Aylesbury RFC	12	12	15
17/09/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub	2	0	15
20/09/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Exwick Sports Hub	1	0	15
25/09/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South Central	Hungerford RFC	2	0	15
05/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South Central	Amersham & Chiltern RFC	0	0	15
11/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	St Austell RFC	1	0	15
11/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	St Peters RC High School	1	0	15
11/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Trowbridge RFC	1	0	15
18/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Plymouth Albion RFC	0	0	15
18/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South Central	Cokethorpe School	0	0	15
28/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Salisbury RFC	0	0	15
28/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Launceston RFC	1	0	15
29/10/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Hornets RFC	2	0	15
06/11/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South Central	Reading RFC	1	0	15
12/11/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	North Bristol RFC	0	0	15
20/11/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Royal Wotton Bassett RFC	0	0	15
20/11/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Taunton RFC	0	0	15
21/11/2026 09:00:00	Ready2Ref- South West	Bideford RFC	0	0	15

Next venues

20.10.26 Falmouth RFC
17.11.26 Bodmin RFC
15.12.26 Truro Golf
Club

