

the various current match official support activities, including advising and coaching. It concluded that, broadly speaking, most assessments of referee performance below level 5 were, in fact, a combination of assessment, development advice and coaching in varying degrees. It was also felt to be helpful to try and condense varying nomenclature currently in existence. The term Match Official Developer is a designation used by World Rugby as is the Match Official Performance Reviewer. The role of the Match Official Developer has continued to evolve to support the performance and growth of match officials on and off the field. The role combines aspects of coaching, mentoring and traditional observing. Therefore, the result was two Match Official Developer Reports and a Performance Reviewer Report.

Match Official Development Report (Form 1)

Simply put, three good aspects, three work-on's (Inc. suggestions as to how the referee may approach these) in line with the Principles of Refereeing and an overall summary. This is easy to complete, with very little data or statistical demand. A Light Touch or Walk Through observation In addition, appended to the form is a performance matrix based on the refereeing principles of Safety, Enjoyment & Equity, Learning and Laws (SELL) to aid the Match Official Developer.

Match Official Development Report (Form 2)

More detailed with an emphasis on specific management and technical aspects of officiating. Greater demand for data collection, some classed as essential and some as optional which allows the Match Official Developer a flexible approach. The design of the form allows it to be used in whole or in part. As with Form 1, it also has a performance matrix and like Form 1, it can be used flexibly. For example, if a high potential official was identified at level 11, Form 2 could be used if deemed appropriate by the society. Also, the TAG agreed that this form would be the one used by all referee society exchanges.

Match Official Performance Review Report (Form 3) this report is intended for use in the National Leagues 3 and 4, with some use at level 5 and has been developed in conjunction with our National Panel Managers. As you would expect at this level, there is a significant increase in the technical data to be reported as well as greater opportunities for match officials to comment on the Performance Reviewer's remarks.

Guide-notes these have been developed to support the use of all three report forms but are not intended to replace training and development programmes for Match Official Developers, Match Official Performance Reviewers or Match Official Coaches.

The RFRU Board has reviewed the report forms and guide-notes and has agreed the following:

All referee exchanges MUST use the Match Official Developer Report (Form – 2) and strongly recommends the use of both forms 1 and 2 with the society grading and development activity. It is intended to review the forms in December/early January and also seek feedback from each society.

Resources and Training and Development

The new Review Forms will be available on Who's the Ref (WTR) and the Keep Your Boots On site, together with the guidance document, in PDF format. It is anticipated to have a Word version available as soon as possible. The previous forms will be retired from the system. The documents can be accessed on line or downloaded for completion.

A 90-minute module has been developed to refresh and update those currently undertaking these support roles as well as referees subject to the report(s). It can be arranged and delivered through your Match Official Development Officer (MODO) or by contacting matchofficials@rfu.com

There is also a Developing Match Officials module, for those new to or considering undertaking the Match Official Developer role, which again can be arranged through your MODO. In addition, a further advanced programme is under construction for performance reviewers and senior match official coaches.

We believe this is an important step in developing more consistent standards for those officials involved in match official development as well as providing a clear pathway for those who wish to progress in the game.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or issues.

Best regards,

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