



## THE BEGINNING REFEREE

Refereeing provides individuals, both male and female, unique opportunities to be part of the action by being involved in the game we love. The referee is always rewarded by being provided with the best seat at the ground to witness the action.

### ***REFEREEING: It's the best seat in the house***

By becoming a referee you are supplied with the opportunity of maintaining a fit and healthy lifestyle within an extended social environment. You develop new life skills that are transferable to your workplace, your education and your personal development including people management, effective communication, self control, self discipline, problem solving as well as critical decision-making under pressure. Refereeing introduces individuals to new friends and the camaraderie that exists within an international family of Rugby Match Officials. Refereeing is challenging, it's rewarding and can be great fun. It supplies individuals with a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

The fundamental role of a Referee is to manage an environment in which two sides can play a game within the *Laws of the Game*.

Accreditation as a referee opens the door to participate in Rugby in nations around the world. The referee role is an alternative option for an athlete to participate in our sport and opens a new and different pathway for individuals to progress to an elite level in this sport.

### **Getting Started**

Any person considering the challenge of becoming a referee should approach their Provincial or Regional Referee Society. For those who need information they should contact Rugby Canada's Referee Development Manager who will put them in touch with the appropriate person in their region.



Before you become a referee you will be expected to undertake the International Rugby Board's *Officiating Level 1* accreditation program. This is a six hour program delivered by IRB accredited Match

Official Educators who are members of Provincial and Regional Referee Societies across Canada. You will also be expected to undertake a program that ensures all referees and coaches are familiar with issues associated with *Safe Rugby*. Once this accreditation has been completed you are certified at the most basic level to perform the roles of a Referee and an Assistant Referee. Level 1 is the basic level of certification but it is the springboard to higher level accreditation and an introduction to what is available to further develop your refereeing skills and knowledge.

***IRB Level 1 Officiating Course***

*“The purpose of this introductory course is to enable match officials to acquire basic skills to officiate safe, enjoyable competition.” \**

*\*IRB Level 1 Officiating: Introducing Officiating Skills, p. 3.*

**Developing as a Refereeing**

Referee Societies across Canada appoint Match Officials to games scheduled by Provincial Unions, schools and university competition managers. To receive these appointments you must be a member of a Referee Society and registered with Rugby Canada. Membership and registration supplies you with appointments to a wide variety of games, on-going training and development opportunities as well legal liability insurance as a referee. Membership and registration also ensures you receive updated information relevant to officiating in addition to information pertaining to IRB Law updates and IRB law rulings and explanations.

The most basic development tools that Referee Societies have at their disposal is Referee Coaching and the opportunity to deliver referee development workshops. Referee Coaches review your on-field performances to ensure you are addressing all safety competencies and to provide you with some feedback that will support your advancement as a Referee. Societies also arrange workshops and seminars for their members to assist them to further develop best practice as a Match Official.

Your IRB Level 1 accreditation permits you to remain accredited with Rugby Canada for four years. During that period you are encouraged to upgrade your accreditation to Level 2.

***IRB Level 2 Officiating Course***

*The IRB Level 2 Officiating course aims to develop match officials who have already gained some refereeing experience. The program enhances game knowledge. It explains, demonstrates and analyses officiating skills. \*\**

*\*\* IRB Level 2 Officiating: Developing Officiating Skills, p. 3.*