

IQA Referee Development Announcement

The IQA are proud to announce the changes to the referee certification system as well as the introduction of referee training.

The IQA Gameplay department is changing the way it helps its match officials. We will be moving from our previously used testing-is-training system to a resource-based training system which integrates into the changes to the testing system.

What's changing?

For new match officials, or returning match officials requiring a higher level certification to the one or ones held previously, the only change will be that we now offer a Timekeeper/Score keeper test and certification. This certification is only mandatory for those wishing to gain the head referee certification and strongly recommended for those wishing to time or scorekeep for games.

We have also made the assistant referee certification a mandatory requirement before being able to obtain the snitch referee certification.

We are offering the chance for referees already certified under the 2018-2020 rulebook to have the option of taking a single test to become certified at the same or a lower level! For the coming rulebook cycle, anyone who holds a 2018-20 certification is eligible to take a recertification test! Current head referees can take the head referee recertification test, and if they pass, they receive all 4 certifications for the coming cycle. Snitch referees who hold both snitch and assistant referee certifications can take the snitch referee recertification test and hold both assistant and snitch referee certifications upon passing.

If you wish to achieve a higher certification than the one you currently hold, you can still do the recertification test at the level you currently hold and then take the initial certification for the role you wish to be certified in. For this cycle only, if you only held the snitch referee certification during the 2018-20 rulebook, you will have to take the assistant referee test and gain the certification before being allowed to take the snitch referee certification test. This will not be necessary for future cycles due to assistant referee certification being mandatory for snitch referee certification this cycle.

Those who take the initial certification tests, will get 6 attempts at each certification. Those who take the recertification tests, will get 3 attempts at each level and if they fail all 3, they will be granted 3 attempts at each of the initial certification tests.

What's different between the initial certification tests and the recertification tests?

The initial certification tests are as they have been before. All possible questions related to that role are put into a question bank and the test randomly selects the required number of questions for the test.

The recertification tests focus primarily on the changes in the rules, ensuring that referees know the changes. We know that you must have a substantial knowledge of the rules because you have held a certification from the previous season, so we just need to make sure that you know the changes.

What training are we offering?

We will be hosting live streams on the IQA YouTube account at regular points throughout the year. Depending on material and presenter availability, we aim to do 6-12 resource presentations every six months. After the resource has been presented, we will give at least a week for people to watch it as a video. Then we will livestream a Question and Answer session for any questions people have about the topic we presented. People can tune in to ask the questions live or if you can't make the scheduled livestream, we will go over questions submitted to us! We will try to cover all time zones equally with our live streams and Q&A sessions. We will announce the timing and topics of live streams and Q&A sessions up to 24 hours beforehand.

The topics we go over initially will be covering the new rules and changes throughout the new rulebook followed by going through video footage explaining contact and other fouls. Some important topics, such as those above, are already on our agenda, but if there's something you want to see or learn about, let us know and we'll try and incorporate it into future sessions!

Will these trainings be mandatory?

None of the training is necessarily mandatory. Those who complete a minimum of 50% of trainings across every 6 month period before the new rulebook cycle, will be eligible to take the recertification tests next cycle. Those who don't will have to take the initial certification tests as a new referee would. This is to reward continually developing referees with the option of one test to gain their certifications next cycle.

The resource presentations will contain a random code to be entered on the IQA Match Official Training Registration Form, which we will keep a track of for the reasons above. Each code will be valid for 28 days from the date of the live stream. The question and answer live streams will not be tracked and are not mandatory for any referee. They are just there as an option for those who want to utilise an opportunity for asking questions.

Exemptions can be gained if you wish to keep up with training but can't for a certain period. Just get in contact with us and we'll sort something out to help you.

What if we cannot follow in English?

For those who feel that they cannot follow the livestreams in English, please get in touch with us and let us know what language you would need the resources translated into. Our translators will be working on captions and subtitles for each training (it may not happen for every question and answer session, but we will try our best). When the translation becomes available, we'll give you a validity period for the code unique to that resource to ensure you have all the opportunities fluent-English speakers do. Translations will depend on the availability of translators, please reach out to translation@iqasport.org if you wish to help out with translating resources.

Important links:

- [IQA Match Official Certification Policy](#)
- [Returning IQA Match Official Recertification Form](#)
- [IQA Match Official Training Registration Form](#)

Any other questions?

Some questions may be answered by reading the IQA Match Official Certification Policy, otherwise please email gameplay@iqasport.org.