

A. Recruitment, Training, Assessing, and Coaching

This is effected primarily through the recruiting efforts of Referees, Association Members, and Rugby Club Members. Fundamentally, anyone desiring to referee who has the physical attributes to keep up with play, and the mental aptitude to read and understand the laws is open for recruitment and should be referred initially to the President of the FRRRA who will then set in motion all the steps necessary to bring that person into membership.

The Referee Program” is a program whereby every club is required to have a “qualified referee” (Complete the Level 1 Referee Course) who is a club member, who then gains experience by refereeing the “B” games, and is coached by the senior member referee assigned to the “A” game for that day.

Florida is governed by the IRB Laws under the direction of the USARFU Laws Committee. An updated edition of the laws is published annually and can also be downloaded from www.usarugby.org. There are many other publications that assist referees in knowledge and practicality at the same web address including “The Game Management Guidelines” Grades are assigned starting at Novice, C4, then C3, C2, and C1, by the Florida Grading Committee. The Territorial Referees are graded by the South Referees Committee with strict criteria for promotion regarding assessments by qualified Referee Assessors. Further upgrading is then taken on by the USA National Grading Committee which also has very specific criteria for promotion.

Certain standards in law knowledge, application, fitness, and ability to travel are required at all grade levels. Referees are paid travel and other expenses in Florida and thus have certain obligations to the Florida Rugby Union, and duties to perform regarding CIPP compliance and Discipline Reports.

Referee training and coaching sessions are carried out a least once per year in the North and South, respectively. Any referee observing a game in which a lower graded referee is officiating, is expected to “coach” that referee in a positive, constructive manner. Opportunities occur periodically for referees to attend seminars on how to be an effective referee coach; with this in mind, all C1 referees and above are considered by USAR to be able to coach, and should therefore make every effort to improve their technique whenever possible.

B. Scheduling and Confirmation of Referees

Referees are assigned by the First Vice President in conjunction with the Referee Development Officer for all league games according to the Florida Published League Schedule, and on an ad hoc basis for friendly and tour matches. Home team Club Secretaries are required to call their assigned referee no later than Wednesday evening for Saturday games and four days prior to any other scheduled games to confirm the match and inform him/her of the venue, kick-off time, and directions to the field.

For tournaments, referees will be appointed by the Referee’s Appointment Committee. This includes appointments for referees from associations other than Florida. Tournament Directors are required to inform the Referee’s Association at least 4 weeks prior to the tournament date, as to the number of teams involved and the play format, so that the number of referees required can be mutually determined at that time. The significance of this timing is to enable the FRRRA to take advantage of 21 days advance air fares when necessary, and for the Tournament Director to know what expenses to budget per the current referees’ daily rate.

C. Pre and Post Match Preparations and Requirements

The assigned referee must be at their appointed match venue at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off. He/she must carry out the following functions:

1. Pitch inspection. Marking and layout, flag positions, pads and goal posts, sideline restraining ropes (as per Florida requirements).
2. Players dress inspection. Boots (cleats), dress, headgear & padding (per the current law directions).
3. CIPP rosters. Collect and show to opposing captains, have each sign off on opposing team's list.
4. Touch judges. Pre-match instructions.
5. Captains. Coin toss.

After the match, the referees must carry out the following functions:

1. CIPP rosters. Note winning team and score, note any cautions or send offs, sign the form, and give to the winning captain.
2. Discipline reports. Write a full account of the send offs, fax or mail copies to Discipline Chair, Player's Club Secretary, and Chairman of Referee's Association within 6 days of incident.
3. Availability. Be available for discussion on points of law.

D. Referee Conduct

Be professional, courteous and a credit to the FRRA at all times while acting as its representative.

E. Referee Match Fees

Referee's expenses will be paid in cash, or check (as arranged with the referee in advance) directly to the referee prior to the start of the assigned game.

Payment amount is available from the Florida Rugby Referees Association

Grades will not be a factor for the purposes of payments.

Any Non Matrix or Friendly games will be paid as arranged between the Home Club and the individual referee assigned to the game. It will include both the match fee and travel expenses.