

ASSOCIATE REFEREES

IRFU

Domestic Rugby

1. It is IRFU policy (since 2005) that all rugby played within the Laws of the Game (incl. U19 Variations) is refereed by:
 - Members of the Branch Referee Associations/Society
or
 - Associate Referees of the Branch

2. **Associate Referees:**

These are defined as Adult persons (18 years +) who:

 - 2.1 are qualified, and appointed by a school or club (to which they are affiliated) to referee a youth, schools, adult matches or training session.
 - 2.2 are qualified, and appointed by their school or club (to which they are affiliated) to a 'blitz' or similar tournament in which their school or club is participating.
 - 2.3 ***are not*** available for appointment to matches by the Branch or Branch Referee Associations/Society.

[Associate Referees may also apply, if they wish, for full membership of their Provincial Referee Associations/Society.]

3. **Qualification Requirements:**

Associate Referees qualify by:

 - 3.1 attendance at IRFU Associate Referee Workshop
 - 3.2 database registration
 - 3.3 qualification is valid for 4 Seasons (inclusive of initial season of validation.)
 - 3.4 qualification must be renewed during 4th Season (i.e: Workshop re-attendance)

4. **Benefits:**
 - 4.1 Accreditation 'card' (email) with re-validation (expiry) season
 - 4.2 registered on IRFU/Provincial database as Associate Referees
 - 4.3 Access via the IRFU website (www.irishrugby.ie) on all Law changes and rulings
 - 4.4 IRFU 3rd party liability insurance

5. **Overall Rationale:**
 - 5.1 improve the game and refereeing standards
 - 5.2 address safety issues
 - 5.3 formalise the status of these referees

6. **Responsibilities**

The Associate Referee must:

- Keep up to date on all Law Changes & Rulings.
 - These are updated regularly on both www.irishrugby.ie and www.irb.com

- Ensure their re-accréditation in the appropriate season
 - Through their Branch, details on www.irishrugby.ie