

Season 2024/25

# Members Pack

**Aberdeen and District Referee  
Association**



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# President's Welcome

On behalf of the Management Committee, a very warm welcome to you all as we look forward to the new season ahead.

Whether you are in the early stages of your refereeing career, a referee who is trying progress up the levels or a referee who just enjoys what they do to service the game, it is fantastic to have you all on board for the new season.

I would like to welcome our new Association Management team. Craig Mackay takes over as Association Manager and he will be assisted by Jim Bruce, who becomes our Association Assistant Manager. With new leadership come fresh ideas. I would encourage all members to do their best to support Craig and Jim as they begin their new roles.



It is an exciting season ahead for our Association and all members of the Management Committee are on hand to assist you with any queries you may have. This is your Association, so all members of the committee would welcome any suggestions.

This welcome pack will provide you with a variety of information of things happening within the Association for the season ahead.

Dan McFarlane - President

# Structure of our Association



Dan McFarlane  
(President)



Joel Kennedy  
(Vice President)



Derek Mitchell  
(Treasurer)



Ian Bailey  
(Secretary)



Iain Donaldson  
(Asst. Secretary)



Alex Ross  
(Minutes Secretary)



Lewis Brown  
(Member)



Owen Lawrence  
(Member)



Duncan Nicolson  
(Member)



Ewan Pow  
(Member)



Craig Mackay  
(Association Manager)



Jim Bruce  
(Assistant Manager)

Your Elected Management Committee

SFA Appointed Management

# Games and Leagues

We have a number of leagues within our geography that our members service, please see below for further info:

League Name	About	Experience Required
Aberdeen & District Juvenile FA	Fixtures for U16's to U18's on a Saturday, with U13's to U15's on a Sunday	Suitable for new referees
Aberdeenshire Amateur FA	Men's amateur league played mostly on a Saturday	12 months*
North Region Junior FA	Operating as an assistant referee in men's junior football, mostly played on a Saturday	6 months
Scottish Highland Football League	Starting out as an Assistant Referee in the U18's on a Monday night Opportunity to progress as an Assistant Referee in senior men's football	Suitable for new referees 12 months (and upon passing fitness test)
Club Academy Scotland	Elite level youth football ranging from U11's to U18's, various days	Suitable for new referees
Scottish Women's Football	Girl's football on a Saturday morning Women's football on a Sunday afternoon	Suitable for new referees 12 months*
Scottish Futsal League - Aberdeen	Indoor football league played on Wednesday evenings	Suitable for newly qualified futsal referees

## NOTES

- It is your responsibility to make leagues aware of your contact details, availability to accept games from them and to keep them up to date with this information.
- \* - Referees with less than 12 months experience must consult Craig MacKay or Jim Bruce prior to officiating adult football.
- Anyone with a football suspension away from refereeing MUST inform the Secretary ASAP. You are responsible for making yourself unavailable during the period of suspension.

# Weekly Physical Training

## Where?

Aberdeen Sports Village  
Linksfild Road  
Aberdeen

## When?

Weekly on a Tuesday evening from 7pm to 8:30pm  
(excluding July and August)

Weekly on a Thursday evening from 7pm to 8:30pm  
Be ready on track at 6:50pm

## What to Expect?

A fitness based session covering all aspects important to refereeing that caters for all abilities

## Who is the Trainer?

Cameron Harold, a qualified Personal Trainer and owner of Quay Fitness Gym



[Log Training Attendance by Clicking Here](#)

# Association Members Meetings

## When?

Season 2024/25 Dates (7.30pm start):

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Balmoral Stadium
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Balmoral Stadium
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - Zoom
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - Zoom
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Balmoral Stadium
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (AGM)

## Where?

Balmoral Stadium, Cove (Home of Cove Rangers FC) or Zoom as above

## What to Expect?

Video based coaching discussions and brief update on Association business

## Who Are The Coaches?

Category 1 Referees Duncan Nicolson and Joel Kennedy



**[Log Meeting Attendance by Clicking Here](#)**

# Referee Development

Training, Meetings, and Matches

The starting point for developing as a referee is through attending Training, Members Meetings, and actively refereeing matches

Development Advisors

Development advisors will be appointed to your matches who will provide constructive feedback to aid development

Regional Training Days

Aimed at Category 4-7 referees, two full day coaching sessions per year provide further coaching from top referees across the country

Category Training Days

Referees from Category 1 to 3Dev receive at least two development days with others at their level across the country

ADRA Development Group

Officials showing potential and commitment may be invited on to the Development Group for additional coaching locally

National Referee Academy

3 referees get nominated to go on the Referee Academy to receive additional coaching nationally

Scottish Centre of Refereeing Excellence  
(SCORE)

Referees from Category 3 Development to 2 are invited to apply for the SCORE, run in collaboration with Heriot Watt University



# Referee Categories

## Referee Pathway

**Category 1 (Select / Performance / Development)**  
Referee in the SPFL

**Category 2**  
Referee in Highland League / Lowland League / Scottish Cup

## Assistant Referee Pathway

**Category Specialist Assistant Referee (Select / Performance / Development)**  
Assistant Referee in the SPFL

**Category 3**  
Referee in Highland League / Lowland League / Scottish Cup  
Assistant Referee in the SPFL

**Category 3 Development**  
Referee in Junior football  
Assistant Referee in Highland League / Lowland League / Scottish Cup

**Category 4 / Category 4 Development**  
Referee in Junior football  
Assistant Referee in Highland League / Lowland League / Scottish Cup

**Category 5**  
Referee in Amateur football  
Assistant Referee in Highland League / Lowland League / Scottish Cup

**Category 6 / Category 7**  
Referee in Amateur and Juvenile football  
Assistant Referee in Junior football

# ADRA Calendar of Events

[Click Here to View](#)



# Scottish FA COMET

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- Scottish FA COMET will be the new administration system used across Scottish football
- Further details on Scottish FA COMET will be communicated in due course

# Additional Support – Mental Health

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The Hampden Sports Clinic offers support to registered referees, and we would like to re-iterate that this service is available to anyone experiencing difficulties.

## Referrals

Where possible, referrals can come from the individual, family member or colleague to the Specialist phone number (07702 565916) or email [mentalhealth@hampdensportsclinic.com](mailto:mentalhealth@hampdensportsclinic.com)

The phone line is staffed by 1 of 2 experienced Sports Medicine doctors who will take details and make contact with the referee/family.

## The Process

An experienced Sports Medicine doctor will seek to make contact within 24 hours of referral, provide initial support and agree a plan for the recommended intervention. The services offered range from phone advice, face to face assessment, medical support, clinical psychology psychiatry and counselling. While this is a confidential service we would encourage referees to make parents aware of the referral if applicable. Face to face and zoom consultations are available.

We also have a relationship with Back Onside – never suffer in silence and seek any help you may need (<https://backonside.co.uk/get-support/>).

# Key Contacts

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Craig Mackay  
(Association Manager)



Jim Bruce  
(Assistant Manager)



Ian Bailey  
(Secretary)

# League Representatives

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North Region Junior FA  
Lewis Brown



Aberdeen Amateur FA  
Derek Mitchell



Aberdeen District Juvenile FA  
Owen Lawrence