



Club Information For 2026/27 season

You are receiving this as you are the current society contact and / or your clubs finance officer or treasurer. See below on what to do if this has changed. This document contains useful information and is important so please read.

'Who's The Ref.'(WTR) is the system used nationally by the RFU / Rugby Football Referees Union for the appointment of all match officials. North Midlands have been using this for many years, and your registered club referee contact should be familiar with its workings.

The key to its success is the society being made aware of any changes to both the club's referee contact / fixture secretary and treasurer / person responsible for paying our match fee invoices. We only need to be notified when there **is a change of personnel** and preferably before the start of the season. If the information we hold is incorrect, then emails with the name of the referee appointed to any game associated with your club /school / university / college may go missing and potentially no referee for your game.

Therefore, if you have or are in the process of making changes to these key positions **we need to know**.

If you are a club coach or other club official, please check with your nominated club contact before applying for a referee. The club contact is the only person who can add referee requests to the WTR database.

Action.

When a change is necessary the following procedure should be adopted: -

1. The new person should go to the 'Who's The Ref' website and register selecting North Midlands as the Society. (www.whostheref.com)
2. In the comments box please provide the name of the club and position within i.e. referee contact / treasurer.
3. The incumbent should email NMAdmin@northmidsrefs.co.uk to say they are standing down and provide the name of their replacement.

Registering the club finance contact is not essential. It's requested to ensure that Match Fee invoices are sent to the correct person. If you prefer these can be sent to the club's referee, contact instead. If it's to go to the club treasurer or other club member, they will also need to register with WTR.

The society's club administrator will confirm by email when the change has been completed. Comprehensive information on how to use WTR can be found in the Support Hub available after logging into the site. This is appropriate to the referee club contact more so than the treasurer / other club officials.

In the first instance if you have any technical problems with WTR send an email to the address above.

Fixtures and Referee Appointments

Once a fixture appears on WTR you are unable to make changes. If you need to do so, contact the society administration officer, appointments or reappointments manager. These can also be amended via GMS.

All clubs league games are added centrally and some junior games via the RFU Game Management System (GMS), but you need to make sure the details of the game appear correctly on WTR. PLEASE DON'T ADD GAMES TO BOTH GMS AND WTR

When a referee is appointed to your game and accepts the appointment the nominated club contact will receive an email with their contact details. You must confirm the game with the referee preferably by speaking to them directly at least 72 hours beforehand.

Referees are instructed not to attend appointments unless the game has been confirmed.

If your club coach or any other interested party wishes to establish if a referee has been appointed to a specific game, you can do so by going to the Society Web page (www.northmidsrefs.co.uk) and selecting 'Clubs' and then following the link 'Latest Appointments.'

BUCS Fixtures

As per last season if you need referees for your games, it will be the responsibility of the University / College referee contact to add these matches to WTR. In previous seasons these games have been added by the society in anticipation of BUCS liaising with WTR or GMS to get them added centrally. However, my understanding is that this has not happened and thus the responsibility will now be with the college / university.

If you need referees get your games added ASAP, don't leave it to the last minute as it's unlikely that the society will be able to find you a referee at short notice.

Guidelines on how to add your referee requests / games can be found in the 'Support Hub' Club Support / Add Fixtures. Once added again any changes will need to be notified to the appropriate appointment officer or to NM admin.

If you need help email NMadmin@northmidsrefs.co.uk / midweek@northmidsrefs.co.uk or finance@northmidsrefs.co.uk.

School games

As in previous seasons these should be added by the referee contact (see above for how to do this). PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SELECT THE CORRECT COMPETITION FROM NORTH MIDLANDS SECTION AND NOT THAT OF ANY OTHER SOCIETY. Last season the early rounds of National Cup games were added centrally which caused confusion. It's not clear if they are

again being added this way, but if they are please check the details are correct including the dates and ko times as last season there was confusion causing problems when appointing referees.

Other CLUB games

Where you need referees both for senior and junior matches these should initially be added via GMS. This will ensure that games are recorded in accordance with RFU requirements. Fixtures appearing on GMS automatically filter down to WTR for the appointment of referees.

However, we recommend that you always check WTR to make sure the game is on the referee's system.

Cancelled Matches

Please refer to the RFU notice dated August 2022 on Clarification of Regulation 6 (appear on Society's Web site). This provides guidance on the decision making when it comes to the procedure for cancelling matches due to bad weather. It applies mainly to League games, but the basic procedure is still relevant to all games.

If after confirming the referee the game is cancelled due to the weather or some other reason the referee contact MUST: -

1. Immediately notify the referee.
2. Email the appropriate appointments officer (see below) so they can update WTR and copy in the society Administration Officer (NMadmin@northmidsrefs.co.uk)

WTR is an integrated system and if the game is not showing as cancelled on the society WTR database it will appear on the Match Fee invoice and a fee will be charged.

This season the society are making a change and if you do not inform the referee that the game has been called off and they travel to the match to find no game, you will be charged the Match Fee plus a surcharge of £25.00.

Last season there were several occasions when referees travelled only to find the game had been cancelled. When this happens, we reimburse the referee his travel expenses. In some instances, the travelling and the administration cost was not covered by the Match Fee so this season when this happens a surcharge will be added to your invoice.

Amending Fixtures appearing on WTR

If a club needs to make changes to league games in the first instance, contact your league secretary. They should authorise the alteration and make the change centrally via GMS.

In the case of all other club, BUCS, school, Sunday or midweek fixtures contact the appropriate Appointments Officer or society admin detailed below who will update WTR.

Administration Support and Appointments Team (2026/27)

Again this season administration support will be available by emailing NMadmin@northmidsrefs.co.uk. Any questions you might have and changes you might wish to make to your WTR account / fixtures / appointments, should be directed to Administration Support using the email above. Answers to most WTR queries can be found in the Support Hub.

The society lead appointments team is as follows and can be contacted if you have any issues: -

Saturday Appointments - Mike Jones – telephone 07887 354916

Email – appointments@northmidsrefs.co.uk or bridgnorth93@gmail.com

Saturday Re Appointments / Summer Rugby / 7's & 10's Tournament Appointments

Callum Crouch 0749 634 8481 Email reappoint@northmidsrefs.co.uk

Exchange Appointments – Neil Reid Warrilow – telephone 07907 108849

Email – reidwarrilow@btconnect.com

Sunday Appointments – Alex Nock – telephone 07736 051752

Email - sundays@northmidsrefs.co.uk

Mid-Week Appointments – Phil Monaghan – telephone 07999 444930

Email - midweek@northmidsrefs.co.uk

Young Match Officials Support (YMO) – Trish Healy – telephone 07719 174081

Email - ymo@northmidsrefs.co.uk

Match Fees, Referee Expenses and the Training of New Match Officials

The Society is responsible for reimbursing all referees' travel expenses including summer and pre-season games. Clubs will now be invoiced for all referees appointed to a match unless otherwise agreed prior to the game being added to WTR.

The Society is a not-for-profit organisation. In previous years, the society have subsidised its running costs from its reserves. We maintain a nominal reserve to cover only emergencies and charge clubs only sufficient to cover referees travel expenses, recruitment, training and the cost of administrating the society which now requires professional support.

Unlike most other sports rugby referees are NOT PAID for their services. They are however entitled to reimbursement of their travel expenses. Earlier this year the government agreed to increase business mileage on which the society bases its charges from .45p to 55p per mile.

After careful consideration of all these factors, the Society has decided to increase match fees for the forthcoming season. Despite this change, our fees will continue to be amongst the lowest charged by referee societies across the country.

Therefore, for season 2026/27 Match Fees will be: -

Referee Fee - £37.00

Assistant Referees - £25.00 when requested.

There will be no charge for YMO training matches or when the society appoints a YMO as an Assistant Referee.

The society recognises the importance of training new officials and in some instances will be looking to appoint new referees and YMOs to suitable junior club / and U14/13 school matches. As such you will be contacted by the society and in such instances, all match fees for these appointments will be waived.

Invoices are normally issued to both the referee contact and/or club Treasurer if known soon after the following dates: -

31st October 2026 including pre-season and summer referee requests

31st January 2027

30th April 2027

30th June 2027.

Please pay these promptly as failure to do so may impact on the appointment of referees to your club.

Again, this season the Society Administration Support Officer (Tracy Pettingale) (NMadmin@northmidsrefs.co.uk) will be responsible for overseeing the procedure and collection of these fees and all questions should be directed to her

Referee Report Cards – Club Feedback

Club report cards provide important feedback on referees and help the society structure its training programmes improving the quality of their officials and therefore will continue the system introduced last season.

This needs your continued support. It's automated and uses QR codes. When the referee asks you to complete the report please follow their instructions. If feedback is not received a link will be sent to the club referee contact via WTR to complete.

Ian Moreton
Finance Director
North Midlands Society of Rugby Football Referees.