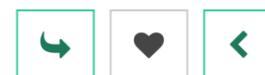


1 2 3

Sports referee



Sports referees officiate at sports matches and events, from local youth and amateur games or meets up to professional level.



What you'll do

You'll look after players' and competitors' safety at amateur or professional events and make sure they obey the rules.

Before the start, you'll:

- inspect the playing area and markings
- make sure equipment like goalposts and nets are safely set up
- check you have everything you need for the game or event, like stopwatches, cards and radio communications (at top levels)
- meet with team managers or individual players/competitors if it's not a team sport
- brief your assistants (if any) on which signals to use and what to do in particular situations, like if there's a confrontation between the players

During the event, you'll:

- follow the play and make decisions
- communicate with your assistants to help with rulings
- control the behaviour of the competitors and their coaching staff

At higher levels, you'll also write up reports on any incidents during that need to be followed up, like a controversial tackle or sending-off.

Depending on the sport, it's possible that you'll officiate amateur matches on your own. But at professional and semi-professional levels, you'll normally work with a number of assistant referees/judges.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

Your hours would depend on the sport and whether you referee at amateur or professional level.

Amateur games and events usually take place at weekends and sometimes weekday evenings. You'll referee games within your local area.

At semi-professional and professional level, you may have to travel to grounds anywhere in the country.

Career path and progression

With experience, you could train to become a referee training instructor, match assessor or referee development officer with a local sport association.

You could also use your knowledge and experience to move into related areas, like sports development in the community.

Skills required

You'll need:

- excellent communication and observational skills
- the self confidence to make difficult decisions under pressure
- good people management skills
- a calm and professional approach
- solid understanding of the sport to know where to position yourself and what to look for

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

Entry requirements will vary by sport, but the first step will be to complete a refereeing course for your chosen role, such as [football referee](#), [tennis](#) or [cricket umpire](#), or [athletics official](#).

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the [Subjects library](#):

- [Sport science](#) >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [PE teacher](#) >
- [Sports development officer](#) >
- [Sports professional](#) >

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Sport science at uni:

[USA](#) > [UK](#) > [Canada](#) > [Europe](#) > [Asia](#) > [Australasia](#) > [Middle East and Africa](#) > [Ireland](#) >

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Sports referee profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

- UK
- USA

Jobs

Sports and fitness occupations

140,003

 911 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Surrey	4,765
2	Hampshire	4,169
3	Essex	4,080
4	Hertfordshire	4,061
5	Kent	3,711

Salaries

Sports coaches, instructors and officials

£23,206

Sports and fitness occupations

£23,863

 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

Growth

2020-2035

Culture, media and sports occupations

+ .2%

↑ 1,593 jobs

 -4.8% in your region of North West, an decrease of 2,325 jobs

Save to Favourites? 

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People also liked...

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Sports professional



Sports professionals are paid to train and compete in their chosen sport.

[Read the profile >](#)



Sports coach



Sports coaches teach sports and help players to reach their full potential.

[Read the profile >](#)



Sports agent

Sports agents help athletes and players negotiate employment contracts.

[Read the profile >](#)