

The Sixth Form PARTNERSHIP

Between Maltby Academy and Sir Thomas Wharton Academy



REFEREE SCHOLARSHIP

Experience high-quality education paired with exceptional referee development and training



A Warm Welcome!

Scholarship Vision

Deliver an exceptional referee scholarship that empowers students through education and officiating to realise their worth and importance, and highlight the power they hold to influence the game's outcomes and their personal journeys.

Develop an understanding that refereeing builds confidence, talent, dedication, and leadership, providing the opportunity to excel academically whilst gaining a recognised qualification and begin their journey into a growing career.



The Programme

The Sixth Form Partnership's Referee Scholarship, delivered at Maltby Academy's campus, is a unique opportunity for aspiring 16–19-year-old match officials to secure a pathway into a growing and rewarding refereeing career, whilst studying at a highly successful sixth form. The scholarship is an elite officiating development programme, ensuring students access first-class training experiences that create positive life-long memories and enhance their educational qualifications.

Over the two years, students this complete a FA Referee Course and follow a structured timetable of weekly referee development sessions. These include strength and conditioning, analysis of their own and others' performances, and CPD sessions aligned with the Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Referee Education Programme. Students also take part in trips to Premier League 2 fixtures, completing observations on match officials, as well as talks and seminars delivered by PGMOL officials. Alongside this, they will gain paid opportunities as match officials, providing valuable real-world experience. Students are supported by experienced referee developers and semi-professional football.

All scholars undertake 3 A Levels and/or BTECs during the 2-year programme, with opportunities to acquire additional work-based qualifications relevant to their officiating journey.

Meet the Team

Coaching Staff Qualifications & Experience:



Matt Rose

A referee programme delivered by FA tutor Matt Rose. Matt is a Level 3 Match Official with experience operating at Steps 3 and 4, alongside his role as a National Referee Developer.



Clare Thompson

Clare is the Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA Match Official Development Officer (MODO). With more than 10 years' experience, she currently officiates on the men's (NCEL) and women's game (NWL). Clare is a National Referee Developer and women's FA Referee coach.

The Offer

- Completion of the FA Referee Course as part of the two-year scholarship (unless already completed).
- Referee kit and equipment.
- Weekly timetabled referee development sessions, including strength & conditioning and detailed performance analysis.
- CPD delivered in line with the Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Referee Education Programme.
- Covering;
 - Technical Proficiency
 - Match Control and Management
 - Physical and Mental Development
 - Career and Personal Development
- Trips to Premier League 2 fixtures, carrying out observations on match officials in a professional environment.
- Talks and seminars led by PGMOL officials, offering insight into elite-level refereeing.
- Opportunities to gain paid match officiating experience, building confidence and practical skills.
- VEO camera technology, recording all games.
- Use of PlayerData GPS trackers to review physical outputs, movement patterns and heatmaps, helping officials understand positioning, work rate, and areas of focus during matches.

Progression Pathway

Students on the TSFP Refereeing Scholarship have the opportunity to complete the programme and qualify as a Level 5 referee within two years, depending on performance, commitment and progression.

Entry Levels

Level 7 (16+)

Upon successful completion of the FA Referee Course, students qualify as Level 7 referees, allowing them to officiate local league matches.

Earning Potential:

Level 7 referees can typically earn £30–£50 per match, plus expenses, depending on the competition and level officiated.

Progression Levels

Level 6 to Level 4

After meeting promotion criteria, Level 7 referees can progress to Level 6 and then Level 5.

- Level 5 and 6 referees officiate in local county leagues and Step 6 or 7 leagues on the FA County Senior League.
- To reach Level 4, referees must officiate a minimum number of matches and successfully pass a fitness test. Level 4 referees operate within Supply Leagues and represent a major milestone in an officiating career, e.g. the Northern Counties East Football League.

Progression Criteria

To move up each level, referees must meet the following requirements:

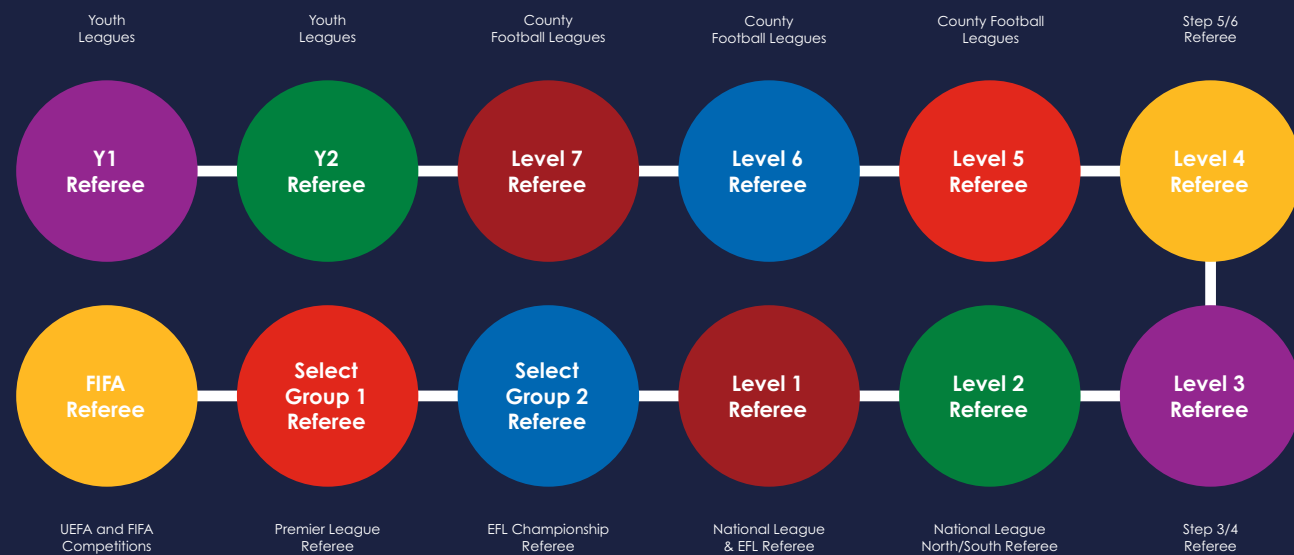
- **Assessments:** Pass both theoretical and practical assessments.
- **Match Experience:** Officiate a required number of matches at the appropriate level.
- **Fitness Tests:** Successfully complete fitness testing to meet the physical demands of higher-level officiating.

This structured pathway allows referees to develop their skills, gain valuable experience, and progress through the ranks, creating clear opportunities to build a long-term, rewarding career in football officiating.





Men's Game Referee Pathway



Youth and County Levels

Refereeing begins at Youth Referee level focused on core skills, progressing through Levels 7 to 5 in county football league with consistent performance assessments.

National Level Progression

Levels 4 and 3 are part of the national structure, with higher match tempo, detailed observations, and stricter fitness standards.

Professional Referee Transition

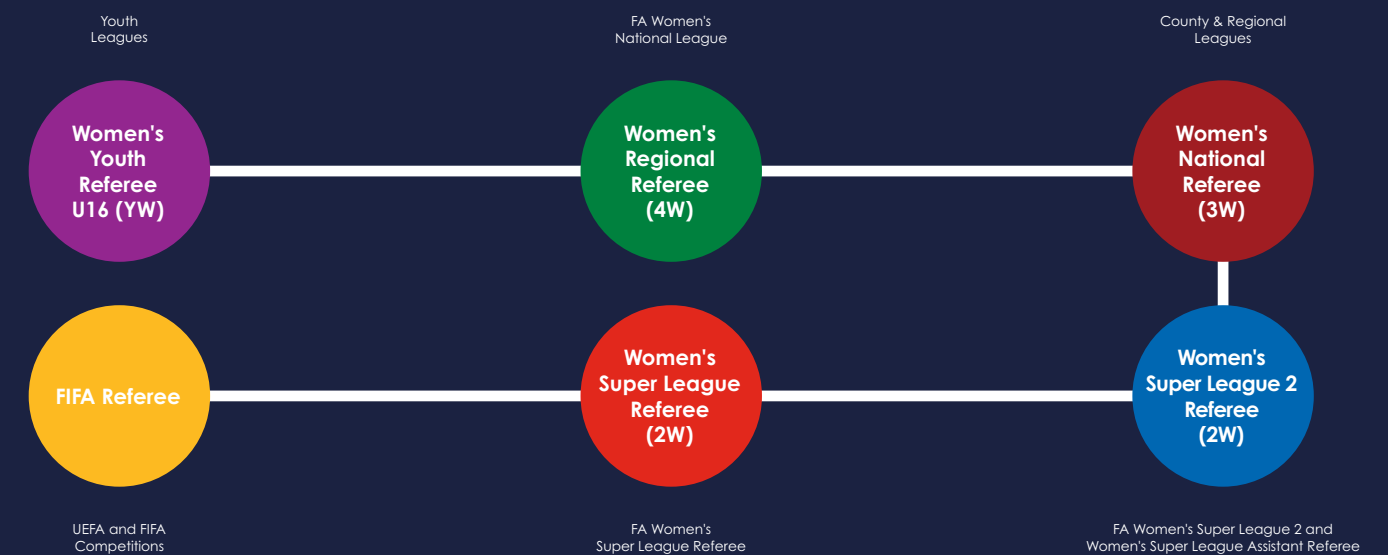
Level 2 identifies Select Group 2 referees in the English Football League, marking entry into professional refereeing with clear development markers.

A Select Group 1 Referee officiates at the highest domestic level in the men's game, primarily in the Premier League, demonstrating consistently elite technical decision-making, match control, physical performance, and professionalism within high-pressure, high-profile match environments.

FIFA

Appointment to the FIFA International List, officiating in UEFA and FIFA competitions. Selection follows national nomination and is based on sustained elite domestic performance and international readiness.

Women's Game Referee Pathway



Women's Youth Referee U16 (YW)

Entry-level role officiating youth football up to under-16 level, focused on learning the Laws of the Game and developing core refereeing skills following completion of the FA Referees Course.

Women's Regional Referee (4W)

Matches increase in tempo and physicality, supported by formal observations, enhanced coaching, and higher fitness expectations.

Women's National Referee (3W)

Requires strong performance consistency, advanced match-control skills, and the ability to meet elevated technical, physical, and psychological demands.

Women's Super League 2 Referee (2W)

Part of an elite development environment. Ongoing assessment, structured coaching, and clearly defined performance benchmarks are applied.

Women's Super League Referee (1W)

This level demands elite decision-making, leadership, physical performance, and the management of high-profile professional match environments.

FIFA Referee

Appointment to the FIFA International List, officiating in UEFA and FIFA competitions. Selection follows national nomination and is based on sustained elite domestic performance and international readiness.

The Sixth Form PARTNERSHIP

Between Maltby Academy and Sir Thomas Wharton Academy



Collections from:

- Sheffield Bus Station
- Meadowhall
- Rotherham Interchange
- Rotherham schools including
 - Oakwood High School
 - Clifton Community School
 - St Bernard's Catholic High School

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy



Pick-ups around East Bawtry Road:

Including:

- The Brecks
- Wickersley
- Bramley
- Hellaby

MALTBY ACADEMY

9 Mins | 4.3 miles
Free transport provided

MALTBY



Typical Week

Typical Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form 8:30am-9:00am	Form	Form	Form	Form / Match Analysis	Form
P1 9:00am-10:40am	Education	Education	Education/ Match Day	Education	Education
P2 11:00am-12:40pm	Education	Education	Education/ Match Day	Education	Education
P3 1:10pm-2:50pm	Training with FA-qualified staff	Education	Match Day	Education	Training with FA qualified staff
After-School/ Evening	PL2 Fixture / S&C Session	Training with FA qualified staff (3pm-4:30pm)	Match Day	Possible Pro/Semi-Pro/U21 Fixture	CPD / Analysis

*Gym sessions and more match analysis to be built into this **Students will also get 3 to 4 free periods, which will fall in the "education" periods. This will depend on subjects studying and timetabling.



"Alongside your academic studies, you will complete the **FA Referee Course** and have opportunities to gain additional work-based qualifications related to officiating."



Scholarship FAQs

How long is the course?

The course is generally a two year programme at The Sixth Form Partnership.

Who is it for?

It is for boys and girls aged 16–18 who want to develop their knowledge, understanding and ability as referees, whilst gaining a first-class academic education.

What qualification will I gain?

The Sixth Form Partnership offers a broad range of academic pathways, including full A Level programmes, a combination of A Levels and BTECs, or fully vocational BTEC courses. Your route will depend on your GCSE results and future career aspirations.

Alongside your academic studies, you will complete the FA Referee Course and have opportunities to gain additional work-based qualifications related to officiating.

Where do I study?

You will study at both Maltby Academy and Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

Where do I train?

You will train at Maltby Academy using the 3G pitch, strength and conditioning studio, fitness suite, and video analysis suite. Training will also make use of PlayerData GPS trackers to analyse movement patterns, heatmaps and physical outputs relevant to refereeing performance.

What type of training will I receive to help me progress?

Training will focus on developing you as a match official across all areas of performance. This includes strength & conditioning, positioning, movement, decision-making, communication, performance analysis, and reviewing heatmaps and data from GPS trackers. You will also undertake CPD sessions aligned with the Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Referee Education Programme, observe match officials at Premier League 2 fixtures, and receive seminars from PGMOL officials to support your development pathway.

Who will be teaching me?

Fully qualified teachers will deliver your academic or vocational courses. Your refereeing development will be led by experienced referee developers and specialists with backgrounds in professional and semi-professional football environments.

Do I get a kit?

As part of the TSF Partnership Refereeing Scholarship Programme, it is compulsory for all students to purchase the subsidised kit package. All scholars must wear their FA Referee tracksuit for training, development sessions and match-day officiating where required. Kits will be issued at the start of the programme in September.

Can I still play for a Local Football Club if I am on the scholarship?

Yes. The scholarship programme runs between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, allowing students to take part in officiating appointments or involvement with local football clubs outside of these hours.





Interested in our scholarship programme?
Scan the QR code to find out more



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