

REFEREE FAQ'S



WHO CAN REFEREE AT ESF26?

Referees must be FA qualified, registered for the 2025/2026 season and be at least 16 years of age at the time of the festival. Referees under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

IS ESF26 FA SANCTIONED?

All ESF26 festivals are sanctioned through the appropriate County or National Football Association. All teams participating are registered to a Club/School who are affiliated to a County/Area Football Association.

ARE REFEREE SOCIETIES/GROUPS WELCOME TO APPLY?

Absolutely! We welcome referee societies and groups of referees. Wherever possible, we will arrange your accommodation together and schedule your fixtures at the same playing venue and time period, so you are able to travel together and enjoy your downtime together.

WHAT REFEREE PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are three ESF26 referee packages to choose from, as detailed below. If you select Package 2 or 3, you must select the same package as the referees you are sharing accommodation with.

- **PACKAGE 1:** £180 Match Fee for the weekend. No accommodation at Butlin's/Haven included.
- **PACKAGE 2:** £150 Match Fee for the weekend, plus accommodation provided at Butlin's/Haven from Fri - Mon.
- **PACKAGE 3:** £100 Match Fee for the weekend, plus accommodation provided at Butlin's from Fri - Mon, including Butlin's Half Board Dining Plan (Breakfast & Evening Meal).

WHAT'S THE ITINERARY FOR THE WEEKEND?

FRIDAY: No football is played on the day of arrival, so referees can relax and get settled into accommodation (check in should be from 4pm) and enjoy the evening's entertainment. A briefing meeting for Coaches and Referees will take place on Friday evening at around 8PM.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: There's an electric atmosphere around the pitches as the action starts and ESF kicks off. Referees are normally scheduled up to six shortened 9-a-side matches, or up to eight shortened Mini-Soccer games each day (Saturday & Sunday). Referees must be available to officiate for the complete duration of the festival. The celebrity presentation will take place on the Sunday evening after the final games.

MONDAY: No football is played on the Monday. Referees therefore have the option of travelling home on the Sunday evening or Monday. Check Out is 10am on Monday and guests must leave the holiday centres by Middy.

HOW DOES THE ACCOMMODATION WORK AT BUTLIN'S/HAVEN?

Referees who select Package 2 or 3 are required to share accommodation with other referees at Butlin's/Haven. Single rooms are not available. Therefore, we can only accept applications from referees in groups of 2 or more, who are able to share accommodation, if you select Package 2 or 3. Please list the referees you are able to share accommodation with when completing the referee application form.

CAN I ATTEND MORE THAN ONE EVENT?

Yes you can, and many do! You can apply for as many ESF26 festivals as you like to when submitting an application.

DO REFEREES RECEIVE A MEDAL?

Referees are invited to attend the ESF celebrity presentation ceremony, which takes on the Sunday evening to close the festival, where you will receive a custom ESF26 medal as a memento of the festival.

CAN I BRING ADDITIONAL FAMILY & FRIENDS TO THE EVENT?

Referees can attend with family/friends but must pay for their accommodation. The rates are based on the 'Comfort Room' price for each venue/dates ('Saver Caravan' for Haven Ayr), which can be viewed on the venue pages at www.esf.co.uk

If you require any further information regarding refereeing at ESF26, please email info@esf.co.uk