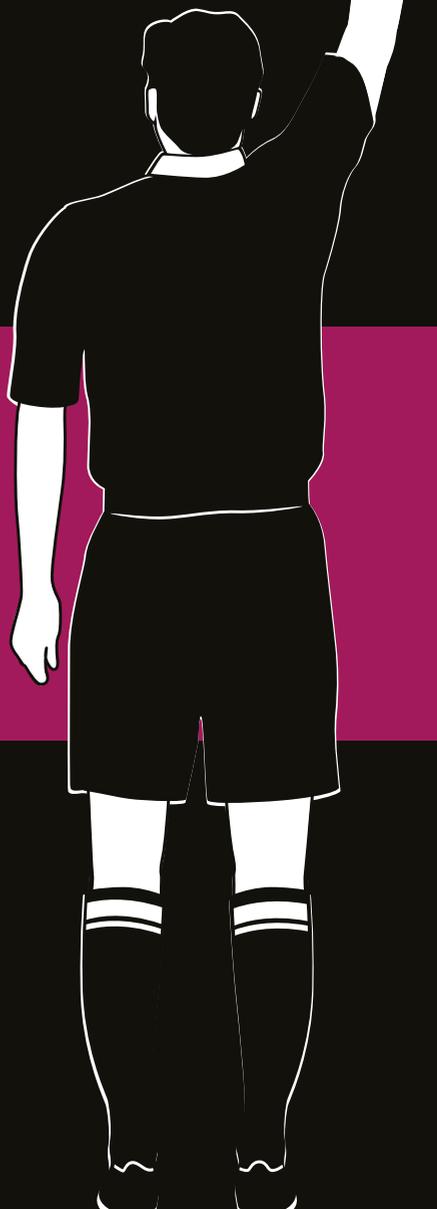


FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

REFEREE FACTSHEET

**WHAT REFEREES
CAN DO TO MAKE
FOOTBALL WELCOMING
FOR LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**



THE REFEREE'S ROLE

The role of a referee has always been much more than just enforcing the laws of the game. Refs are also there to ensure safety on the pitch, to manage the players to prevent problems, and to allow everyone to have a fair chance to give their best. This includes making sure that players aren't picked on or discriminated against.

WHAT CAN REFEREES DO?

ON THE PITCH

Discrimination on the pitch often occurs through the use of sexist, homophobic or transphobic remarks or gestures. Some people say this is just "banter". But remember, there is no such thing as racist banter. If someone calls someone else "gay" or "lesbian" in a perjorative way, or implies that they are less capable of playing because of their sexuality or gender identity, this is wrong and is against the rules of the game. Name-calling because of sexuality, gender identity, religion or the way someone looks is no different from saying that someone can't play because of their skin colour. The FA is quite clear; this should be a red card, and on the red card report form, the referee should write the exact words used and state what type of discrimination it was (e.g. homophobic, sexist etc). The local FA will usually double the fine or suspension in these cases, compared to red cards for foul language alone.

OFF THE PITCH

Sometimes abuse happens off the pitch, for example by managers in the changing room, or even by other referees. In this case, referees should report the incident to the league or to the FA directly via footballforall@thefa.com or on 0800 085 0508. There have been cases, for example, where a referee was offensive to an assistant, and the FA intervened and sanctioned the offender. You don't have to be the person who the abuse was aimed at, in order for you to report it.

Find out more about the Football v Homophobia campaign
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www.footballvhomophobia.com