

How to become an EASB Referee



A simple guide

Age is not a barrier, you can start at any age and if you are a player, a thorough knowledge of the rules can only help your game.

One of the most daunting aspects of becoming a referee is the initial contact, but rest assured that all of our Tutors and Examiners have been in the same position themselves, so give them a call and they will provide you with all of the information that you need. You will find their details on the referee page of the website.

Also, please look at the document "Referees Scheme" which gives a full outline of the process of becoming a referee, but let's simplify it somewhat.

There are 3 classes of referee plus examiners and tutors.

- Class 3 is a beginner
- Class 2 is a competent referee
- Class 1 is an excellent referee
- Examiners are class 1 referees who have received additional training on rules and teaching methods
- Tutors are experienced examiners who manage referee training and examinations across an area or region

To become a Class 3, you will have to learn the rules thoroughly. The way to do this properly is spend time with a Tutor or examiner (about 6 hours in total) probably over a period of a couple of months and when the tutor is happy that you understand all the little nuances of the rules they will suggest that you take the exam. They will probably conduct that themselves or may ask another examiner to test you.

Whichever way, the questions will be straight forward (no trick ones) and you will be expected to know most of the answers. If you are not 100%, that is not necessarily a failure, but we do demand high standards so ensure that you listen to the questions.

We hope that you will pass and when you have, the tutor / examiner will assist you in some of the more practical elements of refereeing. You will learn how to prepare a table, what to wear, where to stand and how to conduct a match (look on the website at the Match code of conduct for more assistance) and many other little bits of information to help you on your way.

At your first tournament the Tournament Director will help you. They usually conduct a pre match briefing and if you are unsure, a private word with them will reveal that they are nice people and there to help, because if you know what you are doing then the tournament goes well for them too.

Once you are past this hurdle you will be into your career as a referee and who knows where that might take you. Recent representatives have been to Egypt, India, Thailand, Ireland and many other places.

A Referee has just two functions when officiating, they are

- Assist the flow of the game – Re-spot balls; manage equipment; maintain the scores and match sheet.
- Represent the non-striker – Application of the rules; decision making, etc.

So make that first phone call now, see next page and Good luck

How to become a Referee

First Steps to becoming a Referee are:-

Contact the EASB Director of Referees (d.lewis@englishsnooker.com) and give the

Following details –
Name and Address
Telephone number(s)
Email address
Status - Student; Retired; unemployed; etc.

Logon to www.englishsnooker.com and access the Referees page and review -

How to become a Referee
Referee scheme
Referees Best Practice bulletins
Published rules – in form of a Quiz

The Director will contact your area Tutor/local Examiners and establish who of them can best progress your enquiry. Your contact details will be passed on to one or more of these individuals, who will contact you and develop a plan.

A seminar(s) of approximately 6 hours will be organised and following completion a date will be agreed for your Class 3 examination; this could be 1 x 6hrs, 2 x 3hrs, 3 x 2hrs depending upon numbers and availability of venues, etc – these seminars often include persons not intending to become referees but wish to learn and understand the rules.

You need to obtain a “Rule Book” (available from the EASB shop, your Examiner) and study the contents. The course is designed to help you understand all the rules, their nuances and the most significant aspects; you can also study the positioning document on the website.

The Tutor/Examiner will then notify the office & Director of Referees, once you have passed your Class 3 examination. On payment of your registration fee (currently £30), you will be sent your certificate, name badge, blazer badge and association tie, over a few days from different locations. You will also be registered with the EBSA (European Billiards and Snooker Association) and the IBSF (International Billiards and Snooker Federation).

You are required to keep a log of your refereeing appointments and after two years can be examined /considered for examination for upgrade to Class 2. Your mentor will advise and help prepare you for this event, should it be considered that you have developed the necessary expertise and experience. After two more years, you can be considered for upgrade to Class 1 – this is the highest qualification and demonstrates your ability to referee at the highest level and be able to explain the meaning of the rules to. You will need to discuss this with a Tutor/Examiner, who will advise you on your suitability and arrange for an examination panel and suitable match for this examination. World Snooker and the World Snooker Association are always enquiring about ‘good’ referees (at least Class2), among the younger age groups for future appointments and will frequently ask NGBs for their recommendations.

It only leaves me to wish you the best of luck and I look forward to working with you in the future and request that you notify me of whether you are proceeding and with which T/E you are undergoing your training?

Dan Lewis – EASB Director of Referees