

Young Officials Project

Programme information sheet

WHAT IS IT?

The Youth Sport Trust is concerned that the profile of technical sports officials such as judges, referees and scorers is ageing. The purpose of the Young Officials Project, supported by United Utilities, v (the implementation body of the Russell Commission) and national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport, is to create a step change in the demographic profile of officiating and initiate a pathway and structure to enable young people to take up these roles.

Competitive sport cannot exist without match officials; they are the people who make it happen but are often forgotten about. We need to invest time in recruiting and developing the next generation of officials across all sports and promote their use in school and local competition to build confidence, skills and knowledge to officiate at higher levels in the community setting.

What NGBs are involved in the Young Officials Project?

The Youth Sport Trust has been working with the following NGBs:

Since Sept 2007:	Since Sept 2008:	Since Sept 2009:
Athletics	Tennis	Rugby League
Badminton	Rugby Union	Lacrosse
Boccia	Cricket	Netball
Fencing		Wheelchair
Gymnastics		Basketball
Judo		
Swimming		
Table Tennis		
Volleyball		

The sports have been supported to develop bespoke young official awards so that young people can 'step up' into a specific volunteering role as an official and pursue lifelong involvement in sport.

Each NGB is supported by a full-time volunteer called a Young Official Development Officer (YODO). They work collaboratively with the NGBs to challenge and change perceptions, and develop young people focused resources and delivery methods for each new award developed.

What's next for the Young Officials Project?

Funding has been secured to continue NGB support and the development of young officials until 2012.

Each NGB will be challenged to assess and promote their young official awards through diverse groups of the population. To help ensure and build capacity for the future each NGB will train more tutors and identify 10 young officials who will be given the opportunity to access higher level officiating experiences, including the UK School Games.

What role does the school sport partnership play?

School sport partnerships and competition manager networks are being encouraged to embed officiating courses and opportunities for young people to support inter- and intra-competition as an official. These young people can log their voluntary officiating hours on the online passport system as part of Step into Sport.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

4000

Young officials have been trained and deployed to date across 16 sports

Sixteen young officials awards have been created and an increased tutor base trained for delivery throughout England. Details listed overleaf.

Feedback indicates that the young officials are thriving on the new responsibility, purpose and direction that the officiating opportunity has given them.

“ The best bit about the course was being able to time-keep for my swimming club at their championships. It allowed me to take part in the event even though I was injured and unable to swim.”

Young Official



“ I was asked to pilot a Boccia Young Officials course through my partnership and thought it would be a fantastic way of engaging young leaders to support school-based clubs and festivals. I wasn't quite expecting the enthusiasm and dedication from the group that attended the course.”

Partnership Development Manager

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. Contact the YODO directly to register interest and organise delivery of a course.
2. Download information sheets about each award from the Youth Sport Trust website.
3. For further information about the Young Officials Project please contact Scott Clarke, Young Officials Project Support Assistant on:
 - a. Email: scott.clarke@youthsporttrust.org
 - b. Tel: 01509 22 66 73

YOUNG OFFICIALS' AWARDS

Athletics

Level 1 Assistant Officials Award

Contact: RTownsend@ukathletics.org.uk



Description: An introduction to officiating within Athletics, providing the basic requirements of measuring, recording and timing. On completion of the practical experiences candidates will be issued with a Technical Officials Pass and Licence

Duration: 3-4hour course + 2 practical experiences assessed by a licensed Technical Official

Badminton

Badminton Young Officials Award

Contact: leahsingleton@badmintonengland.co.uk



Description: A mix of theory and practical based activities. The award is an introduction to officiating designed to equip the Young Official with the necessary skills and a qualification that will allow them to officiate at badminton events.

Duration: 4 hour course (50% practical, 50% theory)

Cricket

England Cricket Young Umpires Award

Contact: yodo.cricket@ecb.co.uk



Description: Combination of practical and theory to equip the Young Umpire with the necessary skills and a qualification that will allow them to umpire at local club level.

Duration: 3 hour course

Fencing

Fencing Piste Assistant Award: an entry level officiating course that enables officials to assist at competitions.

Fencing Competition Administration Award: an IT based course on the software used to administrate a fencing competition.

Fencing Refereeing Award: a refereeing course to qualify young people to referee at competitions.

Fencing Armoury Award: covers weapon control, fault finding and preparing a venue for competition.

Contact: jack.boteler@britishfencing.com

Duration: varies according to award (2—5 hour courses)



Gymnastics

English Gymnastics Event Officiating Award

Contact: katie.steele@gymnasticsengland.org



Description: the event officiating award provides participants with an opportunity to learn and develop appropriate skills and attributes to assist with the officiating of gymnastic events. The course covers different gymnastic events/competitions and officiating roles and responsibilities.

Duration: 3 hour course + officiating experience to complete log

Judo

Judo Young Officials Award

Contact: francesca.kelly@britishjudo.org.uk



Description: Combination of practical and theoretical Sessions designed to provide Young Officials with the necessary skills and a qualification that will allow them to table official at Judo events.

Duration: 6 hour course (theory and practical)

Lacrosse

Level 1 Assistant Officials Award

Contact: a.carnegie.brown@englishlacrosse.co.uk



Description: Combination of practical and theory sessions designed to equip the Young Official with the necessary skills and a qualification that will allow them to officiate POP lacrosse.

Duration: 3 hours

Netball

Young Umpire Award

Contact: sara.bostock@englandnetball.co.uk



Description: Combined theory and practical sessions designed to equip the Young Umpires with the necessary skills and qualification to umpire school and club matches and festivals

Duration: 6 hours

Rugby League

Rugby League Young Officials Award

Contact: Young.Officials@rfl.uk.com



Description: An introduction to officiating Rugby League delivered through theory and practical to equip Young Officials to officiate local school competitions/festivals

Duration: 6 hours

Rugby Union

Rugby Union Young Officials Award

Contact: AdamWhite@rfu.com



Description: The aim of the course is to give delegates an opportunity to develop their officiating skills for Rugby Union

Duration: 6 hour course + 10 hours of voluntary officiating in an outside environment

Swimming

Swimming Young Officials Award

Contact: TBC



Description: this award will qualify a young person to be a Club timekeeper, which is the first step into becoming a swimming official.

Duration: 3 hour course (practical and theory)

Table Tennis

ETTA Young Official Award

Contact: neil.raine@etta.co.uk



Description: the aims of the award are to enable ETTA young officials to: 1) umpire at local club and school competitions, and 2) provide the skills to organise and run a variety of table tennis competitions and festivals.

Duration: 4 hour course + completion of mentored logbook (optional)

Tennis

Competition Organisers Award

Contact: ollie.moore@lta.org.uk



Description: This course provides training in running a variety of different formats and grades of tennis competitions. A step by step planning process covers tips for before, during and after the event.

Duration: 3 hours

Wheelchair Basketball

Young Officials Award

Contact: r.davycripwell@gbwba.org.uk



Description: Predominantly practical, candidates will gain a basic understanding of how to officiate in all aspects of Wheelchair Basketball. On completion, candidates will be qualified to officiate Inclusive Zone Basketball (IZB).

Duration: 6 hours

Volleyball

Volleyball Young Officials Award

Contact: f.harding@volleyballengland.org



Description: the course is an introduction to refereeing volleyball, particularly how to referee small-sided volleyball games under Volleyball England's 'Lets Play Volleyball' brand.

Duration: 6 hours (can be delivered in modules)