



Tuesday 7 March 2017

County Football Associations  
CEO's  
RDO's

Dear Colleagues

### **Referees Coloured Shirts**

As you know, The FA Referees' Committee was asked by the National Game Board to consider the question of referees wearing coloured shirts.

A consultation on this matter a few years ago revealed a small but significant majority of County FAs against such a move. The results of the recent consultation were a small but significant majority of County FAs in favour of allowing coloured referee shirts. However, what was very clear was that whether against or in favour of coloured shirts, the opinion of many CFAs was very strong.

Consequently, The FA Referees' Committee decided at its meeting on Monday 6th March that a unilateral decision was inappropriate and agreed that each County FA should be allowed to decide, for those competitions which they organise or sanction, whether or not to permit coloured shirts. The Committee also decided that where such a competition appoints neutral assistant referees only one coloured (non-black) shirt should be permitted so that the match officials wear the same.

The Committee made no decision about who is responsible for purchasing the coloured shirts (where permitted) as the provision of referees' uniforms at County FA level has never been a matter for regulation.

The FA Referees' Committee will therefore be proposing the following change to the FA Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees for Season 2017/18 (new words underlined):

#### 11. Referees' Uniforms

(a)

(i) All Match Officials in Competitions under the jurisdiction of The Association and Affiliated Associations must wear uniforms comprising a plain shirt which shall be almost entirely black with a white or black collar and black shorts. Affiliated Associations may give permission for referees to wear non-black shirts in a competition which the Affiliated Association organises and/or sanctions. The shirt(s) must be almost entirely of a single colour. Where a competition appoints neutral assistant referees, only one non-black coloured shirt is permitted; the colour must be designated and

competition rules must ensure that the match officials can wear black or the designated colour without clashing with the players.

Socks will be black; the sock top will be black, white or the colour of the shirt or its collar.

ii) Referees' uniforms must not carry any form of advertising.

The FA Referees' Committee believes that on a matter which elicited such diverse and strong opinions it is appropriate and fair to give County FAs the freedom to decide what they want for the competitions which they organise and sanction.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Elleray', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the main body of the name.

David Elleray  
Chairman, FA Referees' Committee