



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

Unit code: FF2Y 34

Superclass: MG

Publication date: September 2020

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 04

Unit purpose

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Identify and interpret the Laws of the Game.
- 2 Demonstrate the practical skills required to implement the Laws of the Game.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have one of the following:

- ♦ A general interest in sport with knowledge of rules and procedures through previous participation
- ♦ *Sporting Activity: Association Football* (SCQF level 5 or SCQF level 6)
- ♦ Unit, Units or course in Physical Education (SCQF level 5 or SCQF level 6)

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Problem Solving, Working with Others, Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.'

Context for delivery

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing ASPs is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

Assessment

Outcome 1 will be assessed by an online multiple choice assessment of the formal controls and procedures, safety requirements and the role of officials in a football match.

A video assessment relating to formal controls and procedures will be included using the following format — a case study in the format of video clips within the online assessment containing match incidents, requiring the decisions of a referee, which each candidate can replay as often as required within the time limits of the assessment.

Outcome 2 will be assessed using observational checklist to be used during practical sessions which demonstrate the skills and knowledge developed in Outcome 1.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

Unit code: FF2Y 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Identify and interpret the Laws of the Game.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Identify the 17 Laws of the Game required to referee a football match
- ◆ Decisions and actions by officials, relating to infringements and misconduct, are identified and interpreted
- ◆ Safety requirements and the individual role of officials are identified

Evidence Requirements

Outcome 1 will be assessed by the following:

The Laws of the Game and the safety requirements will be assessed by a recorded online multiple choice assessment under closed-book conditions. The assessment questions will be supplied by the Scottish FA and will follow their criteria.

To achieve success the candidate must attain 80%. Candidates who do not achieve 80% must be reassessed using an alternative online multiple choice question paper supplied by Scottish FA.

Assessment Guidelines

The formal online assessment should take place under closed-book supervised conditions. The Scottish FA will provide the relevant assessment questions. Re-assessment may be carried out either partially or in full where specific knowledge and skills items have not been achieved. Learners who do not achieve an assessment should have one or, in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities.

The results of the assessment will feedback to the candidate and the Scottish FA upon completion of the examination.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

Outcome 2

Demonstrate the practical skills required to implement the Laws of the Game.

Knowledge and/or Skills

Candidates must display that they have knowledge of the Laws of the Game.

They must be able to demonstrate the capacity to:

- ◆ identify all field markings and checking field conditions
- ◆ check ball properties
- ◆ check players equipment
- ◆ demonstrate flagging techniques
- ◆ adopt appropriate positioning at start of play
- ◆ judge whether the ball is in or out of play
- ◆ adopt appropriate positions at the organisation of free kicks
- ◆ organise penalty kicks
- ◆ adopt appropriate positions at corner kicks, throw ins, goal kicks

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate Knowledge and/or Skills in the Laws of the Game.

Laws 1 The Field of Play, 2 The Ball, 3 The number of players, 4 The Players' Equipment, 6 The Assistant Referees, 7 The duration of the match, 8 The Start and Restart of Play, 9 The Ball In and Out of Play, 10 The method of scoring, 13 Free Kicks, 14 The Penalty Kick, 15 The Throw-in, 16 The Goal Kick, 17 The Corner Kick, must be assessed.

A record will be kept of the candidates' practical performances and responses together with the Assessors' judgement.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specific laws in the preparation and performance of the referee's duties. They will be required to apply key aspects of the Laws of the Game in practical situations.

Assessment of practical sessions, appropriate observational checklists and any recording materials must be kept.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate aspects of flagging or signalling, for example, and the accuracy of their responses should be noted (video records would also suffice). In other instances, candidates would be required to take up an appropriate position on an indoor or outdoor football pitch or appropriately marked surface to demonstrate knowledge and skills of, for example, the diagonal system.

Practical assessment of aspects of the ball, footwear and flagging techniques may be held in classrooms; however, it is recommended that practical assessments be held on a suitably marked football surface.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Candidates will develop their knowledge and understanding in order to referee a football match. The Unit specification has been written in the context of 'formal controls and procedures' to accommodate the protocols defined in the 'Laws of the Game'.

The only allowable alteration to formal activity regulations is noted in the modification section in the 'Laws of the Game' publication.

Approved SQA centres should be aware that the Scottish FA will support the provision of necessary teaching materials required to complete this Unit. The teaching materials include: Unit lesson plans, interactive presentations, homework, questions and answers, class tests, mock exams and practical lesson plans. (All materials are subject to updates in the Laws of the Game made by IFAB). The Scottish FA will provide Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training for all teachers facilitating the learning and teaching of this Unit.

The Scottish FA will allocate a referee instructor to guide individual approved centres during their first year of implementation of this course. Thereafter, the Scottish FA will provide individual classes with a Scottish FA referee instructor to support with the learning and teaching of laws 5 The referee, 11 Offside and 12 Fouls and misconduct as these laws require a standard interpretation.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This is essentially a practical Unit. Candidates should be provided with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and ability through experiential learning situations, underpinned with supporting lecture inputs, as and when required.

Candidates are expected to develop their knowledge and understanding with supported practical application of the laws.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the approved centre, the notional design length is 40 hours. Candidates should receive approximately 15 hours theoretical and five hours practical tuition on the Laws of the Game. The remaining time should be utilised to develop the candidate's Practical and formal assessment. In order to achieve Outcome 2 it is recommended that candidates should begin training for the Practical test from the start of this Unit. Personal study time should be allocated within the remaining to complete revision and self study exercises.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

Outcome 1 — Online Assessment

This Outcome is lesson based on candidates learning the 17 Laws of the Game. It is crucial that the practical lessons are facilitated by staff to underpin theoretical learning. An online assessment is provided by the Scottish FA.

Outcome 1 — Video Assessment

This Outcome is a video assessment and included within the online assessment. Candidates will be shown video clips requiring an infringement to be identified, a sanction to be administered and an instruction as to restart play.

Outcome 2 — Practical Assessment

This Outcome will require the candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in practical sessions. A suitable record (written or recorded) of such sessions must be retained for verification.

Facilitators of the course are required to attend an annual CPD event organised by the Scottish FA where they will be guided on the learning and teaching of the Outcomes.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving*, *Working with Others*, *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.'

Candidates will have the opportunity to develop the following Core Skills:

Oral Communication — through contact with players, managers, club officials and National Associations.

Written Communication — through written reports, in different formats, note-taking and record-keeping.

Problem Solving — Through the administration of the Laws of the Game.

Working with Others — Refereeing a football match.

Numeracy — Pitch inspection, report writing and time keeping.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) — Use audio visual playback of match incidents and provide a suitable response.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

Open learning

The Scottish FA also provides instructional classes leading to qualification as a football referee. These are held in regional centres throughout the year, and are normally scheduled for evenings or weekends. Distance Learning and intensive courses are also available. Details of these can be found by contacting the Scottish FA, or on their website www.scottishfa.co.uk.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

History of changes to Unit

| Version | Description of change | Date |
|---------|---|----------------|
| 04 | Outcome 1, Safety requirements and the individual role of officials are identified. Statement regarding oral evidence removed. Outcome 2 update to evidence requirements regarding five hours of practical sessions as detailed in Guidance on the delivery. | September 2020 |
| 03 | Learners who do not achieve an assessment should have one or, in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities. Outcome 1 provides more details about the recorded assessment. Core skills updated. | August 2020 |
| 02 | Update to reflect change to online assessment and IFAB ownership of the Laws of the Game. | March 2017 |
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General information for candidates

Unit title: Scottish FA: Laws of the Game

You will develop knowledge and understanding in order to referee a football match. The Unit specification has been written in the context of 'formal controls and procedures' to accommodate the protocols defined in the 'Laws of the Game'.

This is essentially a practical Unit. You will be provided with the opportunity to develop your knowledge, understanding and ability through experiential learning situations, underpinned with supporting lecture inputs, as and when required.

You will expect to develop your knowledge and understanding with supported practical application of the laws of the game.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the approved centre, the notional design length is 40 hours. You should receive approximately 15 hours theoretical and five hours practical tuition on the Laws of the Game. The remaining time should be utilised to develop your Practical and for formal assessment. In order to achieve Outcome 2 it is recommended that you should begin training for the Practical test from the start of this Unit. Personal study time should be allocated within the remaining to complete revision and homework exercises.

Outcome 1 — Recorded Assessment

This Outcome is lesson based on you will learn the 17 Laws of the Game. You will undertake a written assessment which will be provided by the Scottish FA.

Outcome 1 — Video Assessment

This Outcome is a video assessment. You will be shown video clips requiring identification of the following:

- 1 An infringement to be identified.
- 2 A sanction to be administered.
- 3 An instruction to restart play.

Outcome 2 — Practical Assessment

This Outcome will require you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in practical sessions.

On completion of this Unit you will meet the requirements of the Scottish FA Referee Department and its subsidiary local associations to progress onto Unit 2 — Scottish FA: Practical Refereeing. This includes issues relating to Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) PVG.