

Welcome

PDA in Scottish Football Association: Refereeing at SCQF level 7 (GA51 47)

- Group Award Specification and unit specifications updated
- Now comply with Qualifications Scotland's accessibility guidelines.
- **NO** changes to evidence requirements in the units
- Group Award Specification –the referee pathway has been updated
- History of changes explains the changes.

- Qualifications Scotland Academy course for writers
- Developing Multiple Choice Assessments for HN/VQ
- <https://openlearning.academy.qualifications.gov.scot/course/view.php?id=75>
- To view this course, you'll need to log in.
- Select **Continue**. You can then log in to your existing account or select **Create new account** if you don't have one.

- Qualifications Scotland's Guide to Assessment
- There is a section on remediation and re-assessment
- Our advice is that there should be one or in exceptional circumstances two re-assessment opportunities
- What constitutes an exceptional circumstance rests with your professional judgement for example : - bereavement, illness, fire alarm , technical issue

Good Practice Session

Teacher reflections on delivery
and assessment

Paul McAvinue

Oldmachar Academy

Aim of Session

- Aim – To share strategies that can be implemented to support pupil learning in preparation for the LOTG Referee exam
- Responses from Pre Event Questionnaire state the biggest challenge experienced is supporting pupils with Exam Prep
- Information shared today is based on pupil voice, staff opinion, feedback from verification and school inspection

Overview

This CPD will be
split into 2
sections

In Class T&L
Develop Teaching
& Learning
strategies that
support Exam
Prep

**Extended
Curriculum &
Partnerships**
Support across the
curriculum &
wider to raise
attainment

Supporting T&L

Flashcards/ Speed Dating Style / Battleships

- Pupils to research a range of LOTG Q&A
- Pupils to compete against each other in 1v1
- Opportunity for pupils to research the laws
- Engaging, Active Learning and Competitive
- Easy to Track with Score Sheet
- Questions Pupils get incorrect are logged to create a personalised revision sheet



Who Wants To Be A Millionaire

- Game Show Set Up
- Ask the audience - 50/50 / phone a friend / quiz master.
- 15 Questions – Virtual Money/Prize



4x4s

- 4 minutes of Football at High Intensity
- Pupils have 4 minutes to answer 4 LOTG Q's
- Pupils write answers on white board.
- Pupils must get all 4 answers correct



Decision Making Under Fatigue

- Clip Challenges/Situations from the RAP / Halo
- Download them onto iPad/Phones
- Pupils do a physical exercise / drill
- Pupils are shown clips on the iPad and communicate their decision

Scenario Based Learning through Match Play (What would you do, if!?)

- Examples include:
- Giving pupils (players) roles:
- Stop Promising Attacks
- Substitute enters Field of Play without Permission
- Delaying the Restart of Play
- Not Respecting Required Distance at Restarts
- Dissent towards Referee!

Supporting T&L



Assessment for Learning



Follow the QR Code



If you are confident and want a challenge – work on your own & Closed Book



Alternatively, work with a partner



If you are finding your feet - Open book – feel free to look at the LOTG APP

Part 2 - Extended Curriculum

Cross Curricular – Higher PE, Sports Leaders - Senior & BGE

Opportunity to officiate matches as practice in CORE PE and Extra Curricular

Opportunity to link in Saltire Awards, Duke of Edinburgh - volunteering

Moderation and working with others

- Moderation is key for improving standards
- Share Pupil work with staff - Fresh set of eyes
- Professional constructive feedback
- School/Department Moderation/Verification Policy
- AAA & ASN Support



External Partnerships

- Work with Local Referee Associations
- Skills & Qualities
- Specialised knowledge
- Enthusiasm
- Role Models



Support/Social Media/Links

- Halo
- Referee Assistance Programme (RAP)
- Instagram/You Tube accounts -
'Referee Channel'
'Refs need love too'
- VAR Review Show

Questions?

- Thanks for listening
- Contact details – paul.mcavinue@ab-ed.org
- All the best for the 26/27 Academic Year

PDA in SFA Refereeing Level 7

Dan McRorie
Faculty Head of Health and Wellbeing
Coltness High School



Course Delivery:

8 Years



Periods Per Week

6 periods



Presentation Numbers: 10-16 per year



Entry Requirements:
knowledge or
football

Must already have

experience of



Laws of The Game My Experience

How do I tackle it

- All theory lessons between August and December are LOTG based
- Begin with Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct
- Move onto Law 11 – Offside
- Start with these laws as they are the most difficult, the longest and contain what I would refer to as the key/core knowledge



Laws of The Game My Experience

Theory (3 periods per week)

- HALO power points – excellent videos for Law 12 and Law 11 that ties in with content
- I provide pupils with questions throughout each law for them to complete in their jotter
- Microsoft Team – Every weekend, pupils must send in videos/links for discussion in class that week

Practical (3 periods per week)

- 1 fitness based, 1 procedure based and 1 LOTG knowledge based.
- For LOTG sessions I keep them game-based and will get pupils to create scenarios throughout the lesson to enforce teaching points. Gives pupils an opportunity to learn visually and kinaesthetically – by doing!

Preparing for the LOTG Exam

October
Laws Covered



November
Exam Prep and
Formative
Assessment



December
1st Attempt

Exam Prep (1st Attempt)

- Exam style questions only
- Multiple Choice
- I create these through PP
- Allows pupils to experience types of questions that they will be asked

Exam Prep (2nd Attempt)

- Will only let pupils sit 2nd attempt when I feel they are ready
- Through feedback from SOLAR, identify questions where pupils struggled and target these laws



Utilising Your Local Association



Staff can ask questions in the forum about course content and delivery



Teams calls can be arranged for support



Signpost staff to resources e.g. videos that would be useful for misconduct and match report writing



Help with organising an assessor for the Unit 2 Outcome 4 – Practical Exam



Guidance for registering pupils with the local association once they have passed



Utilise input from league reps to encourage pupils to take up refereeing



PDA in Scottish FA Refereeing

Linlithgow Academy

Mr Ross Donaldson



Course and Centre Context

- 2024/25 – 1 class cohort with 4 students (S6 only)
- 2025/26 – 2 class cohorts with 24 students total (S5/S6)
- 2026/27 – 1 class cohort with 16 students (S5/S6)
- Classes have been led by Mr Ross Donaldson – Category 2M Referee – with the support of other department staff with a football but not refereeing background
- Students are required to have shown an interest in football, and the capacity to handle the responsibility associated with the role.

Structure of T&L / Assessment Delivery

	LOTG 1.1 <i>Identify and Interpret LOTG</i>	LOTG 1.2 <i>Practical Skills</i>	2.1 <i>Formal Controls</i>	2.2 <i>Misconduct Reports</i>	2.3 <i>Achieve the Fitness Standard</i>	2.4 <i>Referee a Football Match</i>
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct					FITNESS TEST	
Nov						
Dec	PRELIM					PRELIM
Jan	LOTG EXAM					ASSESSMENT
Feb	LOTG EXAM RESIT					ASSESSMENT
Mar			DEADLINE	DEADLINE		ASSESSMENT

Preparing for Assessment – Practical Refereeing

- Gradual build up through small sided games
- Watching and Discussing
- Experiencing and Reflecting
- Teacher Guiding
- Gradually increase complexity of context



Organising assessments – Refereeing a match

- Having a qualified referee within the staff makes this significantly easier – no requirement for an external visit
- PTC cooperation in terms of scheduling BGE classes to run at the same time on the timetable
- Planning N5/Higher One-off Performance ahead to coincide with referee assessment window
- Scheduling assessments by "readiness" – most able students could be assessed through Local Authority league matches – not appropriate for all – S1 BGE class for less confident young people

Preparing for LOTG

- HALO Slideshow Presentations
- HALO Support Packs
- Video Clips
- Low-stake Quizzes
- Informal Assessment
- Formative Exams
- Learning from candidate review of attempt 1 – notice themes

Organising Assessments – LOTG Exam

- Creating a more realistic formative exam- generated using IFAB questions and clips from within slides. Trying to use language and structure similar to that within the SOLAR assessment.
- Regular AIFL throughout the year – 10 question quiz per law monitored through spreadsheet – allows teacher to focus recap effectively

How do you
encourage
candidates to
become
referees?



Examples of former
students experiencing
success



Personal experience
of class teacher



Emphasise financial
gain in short term



Support introduction
to local association
face to face meeting



Resources



Ruairi Mulholland

DHT S1 & S4

St Columba's RC HS

(Dunfermline)



I am a Category 5 Referee
Qualifying in 2019 with Fife Association
Completed 415 Grassroots Matches



Refereeing at St Columba's:

24/25 Session = 6 Pupils

25/26 Session = 34 Pupils

26/27 Session = 17 Pupils



Refereeing at St Columba's:

26/27 Session = 6 Periods

4 Periods for LotG

2 Periods for Fitness & Practical Refereeing



How Did I Deal with 34?

with difficulty! (tbh)

**Continuous Assessment through
'auto-marking quizzes'**



Entry Requirements:

1. Love of the Game
2. PE/Sports Coaching/AEiS
3. Literacy Ability



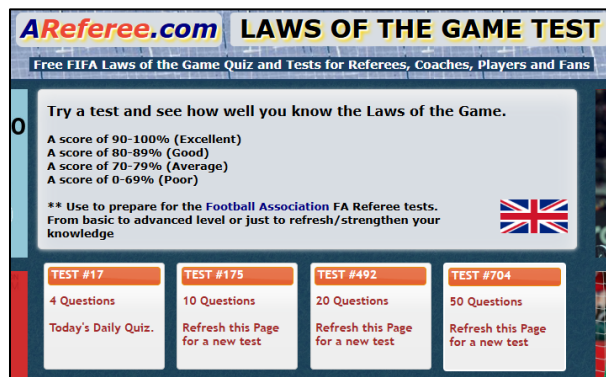
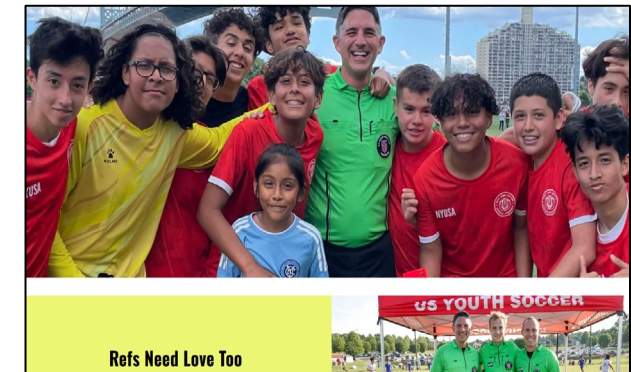
Links with Fife Association

Great Links through a
WhatsApp Group

SFA REFEREEING - LEVEL 7 PDA



LotG Input





LotG Exam

Sitting 1 – Late January 2027

Re-sit – Early March 2027

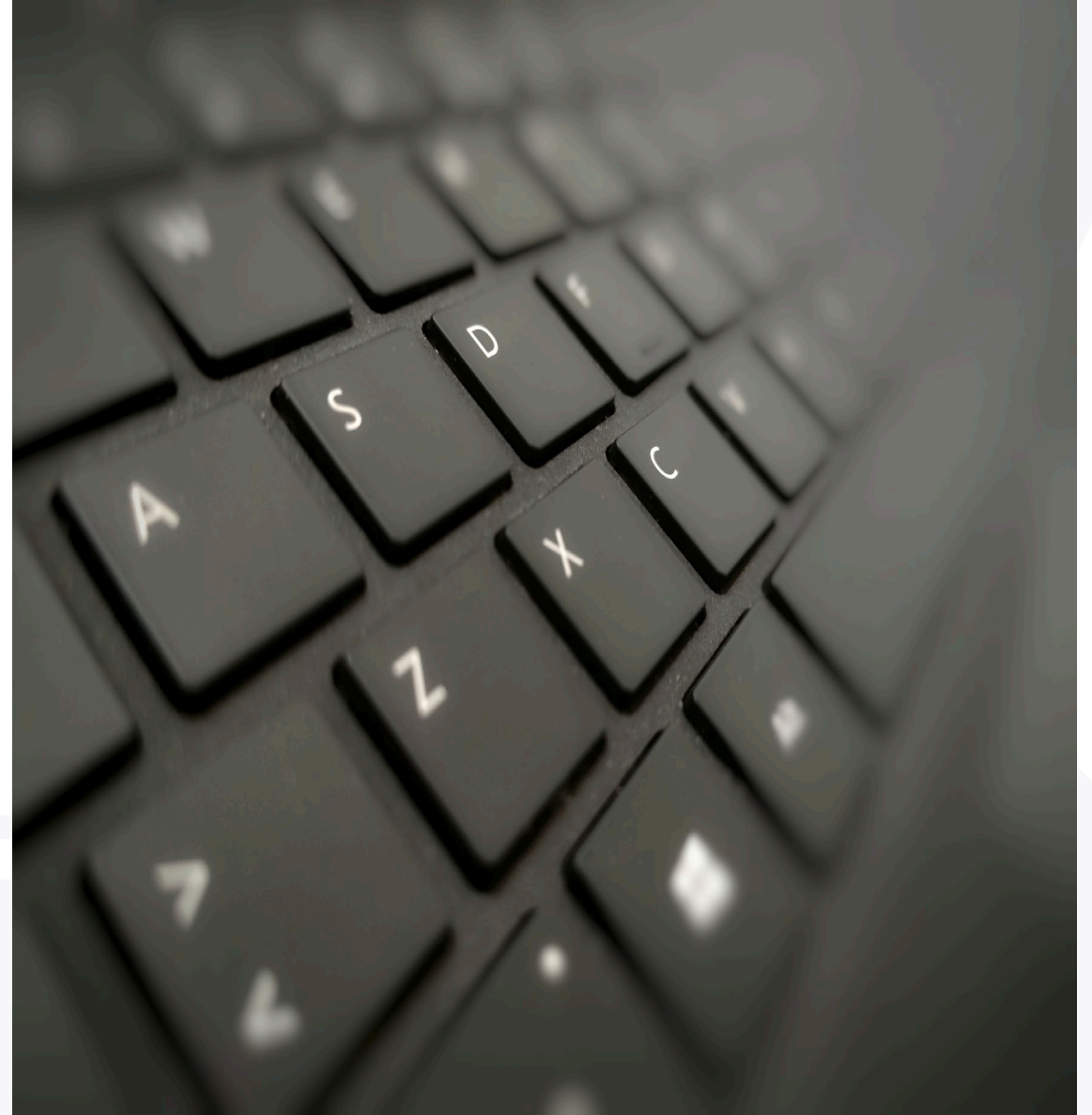
Laws of the Game SOLAR

Alastair Black, Digital Assessment Manager



SOLAR

- Qualifications Scotland's Digital Assessment Platform
- 3rd Party Supplier – Surpass Assessment
- Laws of the Game Outcome 1



2025/26 Review

- First year on SOLAR
- >1,000 Achieved
- Valid, reliable, fair assessment
- SCQF 7



2026/27 Review Process

- Review assessment performance data
- Review existing questions
- Create new questions – revised laws
- Quality assurance – Validators
- Assessment available from Monday 26 October



2026/27 Assessment

- 50 questions – 10 videos – 1 mark per question
- Laws 2-4, 6-10, 15-17 – 1 question
- Law 1, Law 5 – 2 questions
- Law 11 Offside – 6 questions, 2 videos
- Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct – 20 questions, 6 videos
- Law 13 Free Kicks – 3 questions, 1 video
- Law 14 The Penalty Kick – 4 questions, 1 video
- 80% pass mark



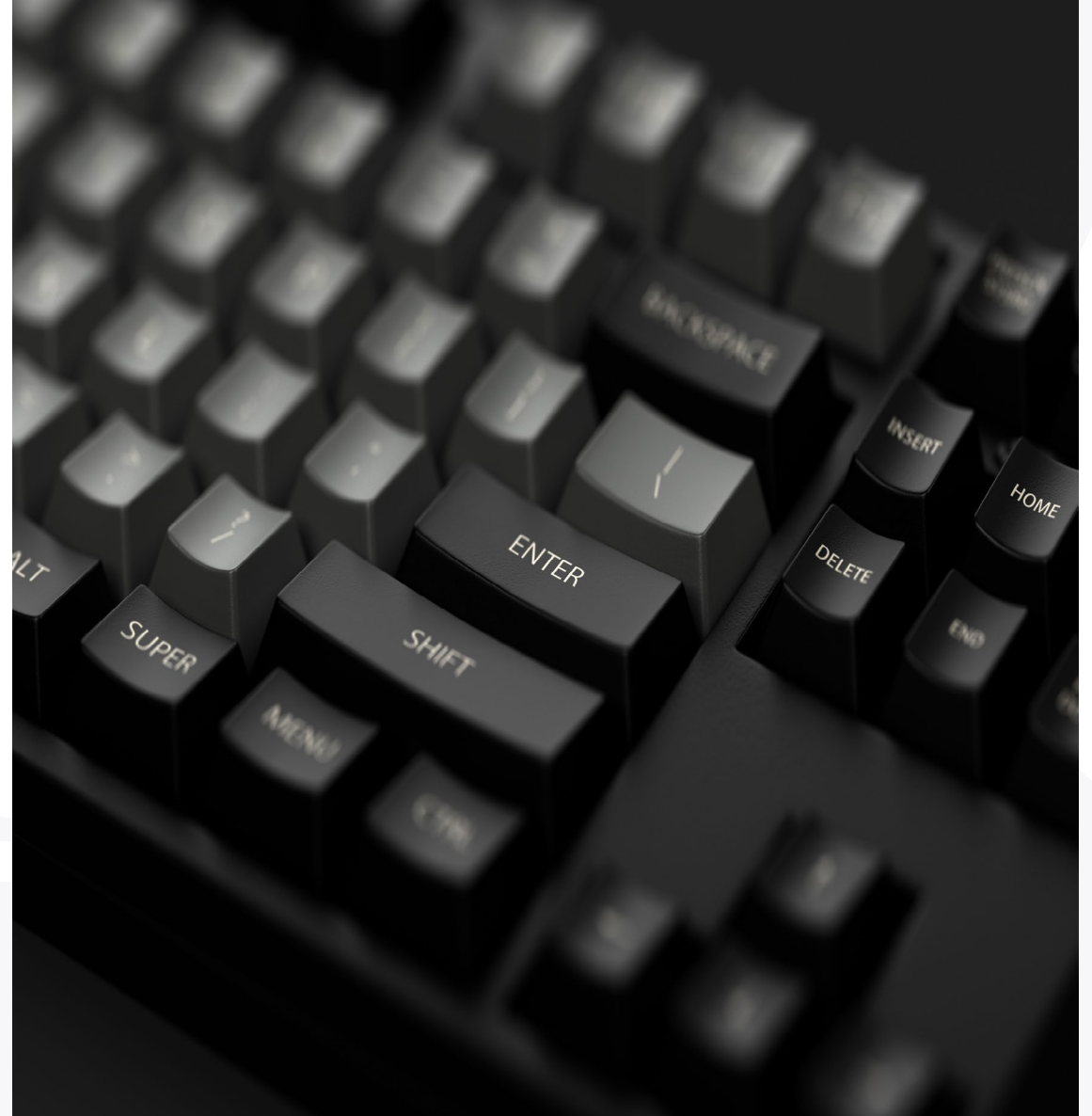
2026/27 Assessment

- Dynamically generated
- Multiple choice questions (MCQs)
- MCQ course, Guide to Assessment
- Formative assessment available



SOLAR Delivery

- Centre SOLAR Co-ordinator
- Automatic candidate SOLAR registration
- Schedule assessments
- Sit assessments
- Results generated
- Review
- 1 re-assessment + 1 exceptional circumstances



Guidance and Support

- solar.qualifications.gov.scot
- SOLAR Centre Operating Guide, User Guides
- das.helpdesk@qualifications.gov.scot
- Share information before assessment goes live
- Assessment available from Monday 26 October



SFA/Qualifications Scotland Annual CPD Event 1st September 2026

Quality Assurance Process - Sports Coaching Verification Group 629

Graeme Rae
External Verifier

Aims of the day

To support teachers, lecturers and assessors in their understanding of national standards by:

- reviewing the process of external verification (different for the PDA)
- Highlighting and confirming certain evidence requirements
- asking questions and seeking clarification about the process

External verification process

The criterion used will be allocated a high or medium tariff.
The three categories that are examined are:



Resources



Candidate support



Internal assessment
and verification

Green: sufficient evidence

Amber: insufficient evidence

Red - no evidence

N/A - not applicable

Resources

2.1 High	Assessors and internal verifiers must be competent to assess and internally verify, in line with the requirements of the qualification.
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Current assessors and internal verifiers (IVs) must:

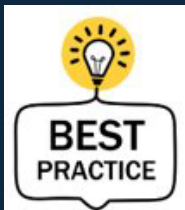
- be occupationally competent and have a basic working knowledge of the Laws of the Game
- have evidence of Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

Practical Refereeing (FF2X 34) Outcome 4

- suitably qualified referee to conduct assessment (regional SFA contact for support).

Unit specification states:

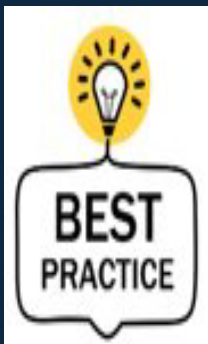
‘A suitably qualified referee will supervise to ensure that correct procedures are followed, and to assess performance. ‘For the purposes of assessment, each approved centre is free to arrange their own 11-a-side match however these must be observed by a qualified representative from Scottish FA.’



- GTCS records – CPD evidence
- PE staff – referee qualified

Resources

2.4 High	There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.
Capture evidence of departmental meeting minutes which includes reviews, standardisation activities and pre-verification notes. Evidence of initial and ongoing reviews, could also include site checklists, equipment checklists, photographic/video evidence etc.	



- Qualification Scotland HNVQ Internal Verification Toolkit –
proformas for pre-verification activity



Candidate support

3.2 Medium

Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

- PDA at (SCQF level 7) recommended entry
- Communication (SCQF level 6)
- Numeracy, ICT (SCQF level 4)
- Problem solving, working with others (SCQF level 5)
- Information around alternative assessment arrangements (if applicable)

Evidence could include Course Choice Booklets, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Plans, Individual Learning Plans, Progress Reviews.

Candidate support

3.3 Medium

Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

Discussion of candidate contact/timetable eg. assessment plans/progress. Candidate discussions supports the collation of evidence and provides invaluable feedback for Qualifications Scotland and the centre.

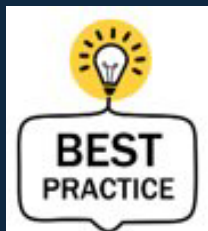
Evidence could also include any relevant documentation that shows progress reviews have taken place. For example, recorded feedback and Learner Conversations.



- Timing of the verification visit is key to capture candidate feedback.
- Qualification Scotland is planning earlier visits in response to centre feedback.

Internal assessment and verification

4.2 Medium	Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.
Evidence: records of assessment and verification activities which fall in line with the centre's assessment/verification policies. Qualifications Scotland strongly recommend a 3 stage approach. Pre-delivery, During delivery and Post delivery. Examples cover the assessment cycle and could include, pre-delivery checks, standardisation meeting minutes, records of sampling, assessment planning, judging evidence, clear mapping, re-assessment, the assessment decisions and the review process.	



- Qualification Scotland HNVQ Internal Verification Toolkit – proformas



Internal assessment and verification

4.3 High	Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.
Assessment instruments/methods to be appropriately selected (prior to assessment) and used (during assessment).	
Regardless of source, all instruments of assessment must be Internally Verified.	



- Unit specification – evidence requirements.
- Use assessment support packs (ASP) – Internally verify these to ensure appropriateness for your centre and candidates.
- Access the prior-verification service.
- Qualification Scotland guide to assessment.

Internal assessment and verification

4.4 High	Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under Qualification Scotland required conditions.
Determining the authenticity of each candidate's work is of prime importance in ensuring the integrity of their achievement. Evidence such as induction checklists, portfolio disclaimers, checks on assessment conditions, use of plagiarism software (where appropriate).	

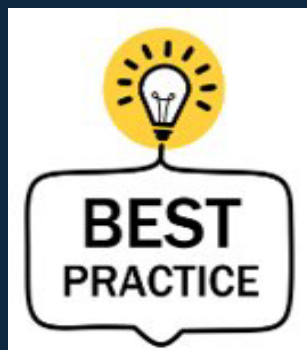
Internal assessment and verification

4.6
High

Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against Qualification Scotland requirements.

Evidence: assessment and verification documentation that records accurate and consistent assessment decisions being made.

- Records of standardisation activity.
- Records of sampling.
- Records of feedback to the assessor.
- Attendance at Understanding Standards events.



- Create a bank of exemplars demonstrating the level of work expected for future course teams (SCQF level 7).
- Embrace opportunities to standardise with other centres.

Internal assessment and verification

4.7 High

Candidate evidence must be retained in line with Qualification Scotland requirements.

4.8 Medium

Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

Pay particular attention to the Evidence requirements in the Unit Specification. In Unit FF2X 34 Scottish FA: Practical Refereeing, Outcome 2 for example, candidates are required to:

- complete one match incident report in formal letter style.

In Outcome 4 for example;

- Provide a copy of their notebook recording all sanctions, substitutions and any other notes taken during the duration of the match
- Provide a copy of both sets of team-lines

Retain all evidence until the end of the year the qualification was resulted (31st December).

The External Verifier (EV) will capture evidence to support that any QA activity is communicated to the entire course team.

Thank you

For further examples and materials head to your subject level pages on the Qualifications Scotland site or the Understanding Standards site.