

## Officiating

### **Development of new National Occupational Standards at level 4**

Officiating is essential to the successful operation of sport in the UK. During 2005 National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Officiating at level 2 were developed, followed by level 3 Officiating NOS during 2007. National Governing Bodies and other interested parties have since used these NOS to underpin awards and training for officials. Sports Officials UK (SOUK) has now recognised the need for Officiating NOS at level 4 for national/ international level officials. Commencing in August 2009, SkillsActive will be running a project to develop NOS for officiating at level 4.

With increased media spotlight, the development of officials at all levels, across a wide spectrum of sports is an area receiving more focus. SOUK have highlighted a lack of structured training and competency development for top level officials. The formation of level 4 NOS will allow the development of a clear career pathway through to elite level and will help to benchmark standards across the sector. It is anticipated that governing bodies may choose to use the new NOS in the development of qualifications and training. The completion of this project will see Officiating NOS from level 2 through to level 4 accessible to the sector. It is anticipated that the key areas for level 4 development will be evident in media handling, health and safety awareness, participant protection, and increased responsibility.

Officiating has been broken down into four key areas: judging, umpiring, refereeing, and marshalling. The steering group will comprise of key persons representing each of these disciplines, with a UK wide approach. SOUK and other key partners will also be represented. Smaller working groups with key interests and expertise will develop the specific unit requirements.

#### **WHAT ARE NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS?**

National Occupational Standards define the skills and knowledge which are required to work in particular occupations. The Standards are then used in the development of training or qualifications and they can also be used in employment to develop job descriptions and person specifications and to develop national structures or continuing professional development programmes for staff.

#### **HOW THE STANDARDS WILL BE DEVELOPED?**

The steering group will discuss and draft key areas for officiating at level 4. Working groups consisting of industry experts will then develop the individual unit standards. Once the standards have been drafted and agreed by the steering group a UK-wide consultation will take place within the industry prior to the final submission.

#### **How can I get involved?**

Contact the project team on Tel: 0207 632 2000 or send an e-mail to:

[amy.lelliott@skillsactive.com](mailto:amy.lelliott@skillsactive.com)

#### **How can I keep up to date with the project?**

Look out for further information at [www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)

#### **What are the timescales?**

The project is due to be completed by the end of March 2010

Bulletin 1

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