

Objective

This policy defines what is a senior badge and the relationship with the open badge.

Scope

This policy applies to all referees in the European badge system

Summary

Senior Badges are available from the age of 40

Dependencies

- Referee Upgrade System - Policy 4 - 2021 v5.0

Content

1. [Principles](#)
2. [Interim Adjustment](#)

Principles

Senior badges are available to referees aged 40+ (irrespective of gender) for levels 3, 4 and 5. The requirements to achieve these badges are the same as if they were taken at Open level except that an allowance is made for leg speed (meaning how often a referee can keep an ideal position in faster games).

Once a referee has been awarded a Senior badge, they may revert but are required to be reassessed for an Open badge at their current level first. Time-in-grade requirements will apply after the award of a Senior badge as normal.

Possession of a Senior badge has no impact on that referee's ability for a ranking or final appointment. These are solely reliant on merit within that competition.

This policy will be introduced gradually – see below for details.

Age, as for players, is determined on 1st January of the relevant year.

Transitional measure

As of 2017, the senior age break-point for women was 35. The change to 40 in 2018 has been brought in gradually so as not to disadvantage female referees as follows:

- 2019 season – female referees aged 36+ may nominate for Senior;
- 2020 season – female referees aged 37+ may nominate for Senior;
- 2021 season – female referees aged 38+ may nominate for Senior;
- 2022 season – female referees aged 39+ may nominate for Senior; and
- 2023 season and later – female referees aged 40+ may nominate for Senior.

As of 2023, this interim adjustment will no longer be in effect.

Metadata

Name of policy	Referee Senior Badges - Policy 14 - 2021 v1.0
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Policy owner (name at the time of publication)	Sylvain Charras
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