**St Helens Rugby League Referees Society**

**Under 7 to 11’s Referee Availability**

As you are aware there is no requirement by the Under 7’s to 11’s leagues to have official referees running these age Groups.

However, St Helens Referees Society have in the past received requests from Teams/ Clubs within the Town for junior referees to officiate at matches in these age groups and have always tried to accommodate their requests whenever possible. This is a benefit to the Society as it gives valuable learning experience to young officials and a benefit to the clubs as it saves coaches not having to referee games and allowing them to concentrate on their own roles.

Unfortunately, due to the severe shortage of people wanting to take up the whistle the society feels they will no longer have the personnel to full fill these requests on a regular basis every week.

However, the Society have come up with an innovative idea which is not on offer via any other Referees Society within Rugby league.

St Helens Referees Society have designed their own short referee course and hope to run this, possibly twice a year, dependant on interest from Clubs/ Volunteers to solve this issue.

The Course would be over a 3-hour period on a Saturday Morning (Venue to be confirmed) 1.5 Hours Classroom Based 1.5 hours Practical outside pitch.

The course would be aimed at educating participants on game management, handling of the players and the basic rules. It won’t be a full referees course and they are not looking for people to take up refereeing away from their own club (if this did happen then great, but its not the aim).

There will be no pass or fail to the course. There will be no exam or test to take. All attendees would be given a certificate showing that they had attended the course and have had the training to be able to referee games in these age groups.

This course will be open to everyone & anyone who is interested. Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Club Officials, Club Volunteers, Mum’s, Dad’s, Uncles Etc. Anyone who is willing to help on game day to get the matches on for the players.

**This Course will Be Free of Charge**

*Everyone who attends the Course will be entered into a Free Draw*

*One Luck Winner will receive -*

*An Invitation from the Saints Community Clubs Foundation for 2 persons*

*to A Saints Home Match, including*

*Pre-Match 3 Course Meal along with Pre & Post Match Entertainment*

Please do your best to spread the word and support this unique initiative to our town and lets all work together to support the game moving forward in St Helens.

Can you reply to me by latest **Wednesday 11th March** saying your club is willing to support and take part in the courses? We don’t need names at this stage.

If the support is positive, we will hold a meeting on **Wednesday 18th March** to thrash out the details.

We then propose to hold the course on **Saturday morning 28th March** at a venue to be announced. Times probably 9.30-12.30.

Let me have your thoughts and suggestions or any ideas you have by next Wednesday please and thanks for your support.

**Billy Dillon**