



England Lacrosse Referring Advisory Group (RAG) Reading List 2021

"This reading list has been created by the RAG as a way of collectively improving our officiating skills.

"Various members of the committee have suggested videos, articles and podcasts for all levels of referee (and umpire).

"There is an overview of each item to give you some insight into why these are a good use of your time and an excellent way to continue our development together.

"I hope you enjoy. If you have any feedback, please contact the RAG email account."

Mark Buckley, Refereeing Advisory Group Chairman.

Getting into officiating:

[Become An Official](#) | Presented by US Lacrosse

Suggested by Hazel Wisbey. This short 7 min video contains a variety of views from a wide range of lacrosse officials who discuss why they put on stripes and what they get out of it. If you haven't started your officiating journey yet, then start with this video. Even if you are already an official it's a chance to remind yourself why you started in the first place and will give you a chance to reconnect!

[Seven Qualities of a Great Sports Official](#)

Suggested by Peter Davison. Being a good official is more than just knowing the rules. This article looks at the other qualities you will need to be great. They are areas that every official should work on as we strive for continuous improvement.

Improving your game:

[Don't Go Looking For Fouls](#)

Suggested by Peter Davison. The title says it all. Referee.com has a great range of articles (there is more than 1 on this list) and it's important we look beyond our sport to understand what we can learn from others.

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[Defining the “It” Factor](#)

Suggested by Don Blacklock. This article looks at how to set yourself apart from the herd and take the next step in your officiating career. Do you have the attributes some top officials from other sports believe you need to take your game up a level?

[6 Qualities That Get You Respect](#)

Suggested by Phil Pearson. Everything we do as referees come down to respect and this article looks at what you need to do to gain respect and be the official that everyone wants working their game.

[Self-Evaluation is Critical](#)

Suggested by Michael Leahy. As the title suggests, the only way we can truly improve is through self-evaluation. I referenced continuous improvement with the earlier article on qualities of a sports official and the best way to achieve this is realise that there is always room to get better in every aspect of your game.

Views from the officials:

[A referee's take on blown calls, game control, and fans' misconceptions](#)

Suggested by Mark Buckley. Though this article is focussed on Ice Hockey, it is easy to see how these lessons transfer to all sports. Reinhard makes some interesting points about how games are controlled and the impact of ‘blown calls’ [personally I think the referee can do something preventative in a game and not always reactive but the roles of players, coaches and supporters are spot on].

[THE PALUMB CONUNDRUM: PLL’S MOST VISIBLE REF PREFERS NOT TO BE SEEN](#)

Suggested by Andy Higginbottom. If you are only going to read one thing on this list, make it this one. This excellent recent article looks at the career and officiating style of Matt Palumb, a lacrosse referee we could all learn something from.

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More than just refereeing:

I have included two bonus links, for a podcast and another YouTube video. They might not directly affect how you work as an official but I hope they will make you think and maybe change the way you think about certain things.

Ref, You Suck! Against the Rules with Michael Lewis [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

Rage at referees is all the rage in professional sports. They visit a replay centre that's trying to do the impossible: adjudicate fairness. This is the first episode (2 seasons to date) that Michael Lewis has done about fairness in society.

[Lacrosse Saved My Life](#)

In this video, Gordon Corsetti shares what the medicine game has done for him. An honest and insightful account that will put many things into perspective.

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