

NSWRRA Referees Final Appointments Policy

Last updated: 13 Jul 23

Purpose: This policy is intended to inform the referees within NSWRRRA on the guidelines for how finals appointments will be made. The intent is that referees are appointed to finals based on current form.

Ranking of referees:

At least two weeks prior to the finals series commencing (i.e. before 23 July) the Development and Appointments Committee (DAC) will meet to confirm assignment of Referees to finals series. This meeting is scheduled for 21 July.

The DAC may determine that referees are not suitable for appointment to referee finals, regardless of grading. This may be due to lack of availability (particularly if the referee has done less than five games in the 2023 season), is unavailable for multiple weeks in an appropriate Finals Series or performances in the 2023 season to date.

Availability for finals series: All referees will be asked for their availability for appointment during the finals period (5th August – 2nd September for Subbies and 12th August – 27th August for Premier). Unavailability will be taken into account when forming teams of three.

Premier Finals Appointment process: In Premiership Rugby (Grade and Colts) there are 6 games in each final series, as follows:

- 1) Three qualifying finals,
- 2) Two semi-finals, and
- 3) One grand final.

There will normally be a team of three selected and all members of the team of three will get a qualifying final in Week 1. After Week 1, the DAC will normally employ 1 of 2 appointment models:

- 1) The two best performing referees from the qualifying finals will be appointed to the semi-finals and the best of those will be appointed to the grand final; or
- 2) The #2 and #3 referees will be appointed to the semi-finals and the #1 referee will be appointed to the grand final.

Subbies Finals Appointment process: In general, referees will be appointed in teams of three, such that each referee will referee either one of the major or minor semi-finals or the preliminary final. The best performing referee from each team of three will be appointed to referee the grand final.

Any available member may be appointed as AR or #4/#5 for any finals series. Referees in Group Z will generally not be used in the finals series.

There may be variations to the above structure based on the individual structure of certain Finals Series – such as Jack Scott Cup (Women's Premiership) or some Subbies competitions.

Referee coach appointment process: Based on availability, geography and who they have been coaching during the year, referee coaches will be appointed to observe each finals series. In most cases, the DAC will delegate to the responsible referee coaches or the appointed convenor the responsibility to select referees to semi-finals or grand finals. Referee Coaches will also observe the

performance of ARs during the finals series and make recommendations on AR appointments for the grand final. If after all referees have been seen the referee coaches believe that none of them are suitable to referee the grand final, they shall advise the DAC. The DAC may decide that a referee from outside the team of three shall be brought in.

Approval of Finals appointments: The DAC will provide the appropriate delegations to the responsible referee coaches or convenor at the respective finals series. In the event of a dispute, this would be referred to the DAC for resolution. If the DAC could not reach a consensus position, then the Committee would vote to finalise the appointments. All finals appointments are to be sent to the Referee Manager, the Referee Appointments Officer, the DAC for distribution to members. This should be completed on Sunday evening to enable appointments to be sent out on the Tuesday.

Feedback and reporting: One referee coach shall be designated to debrief the referee after their game. Referees and referee coaches are strongly encouraged to complete a GPR during the finals series.

Submission (or non-submission) of a GPR by referees will be taken into account when selecting the grand final referee. Non-submission of a GPR reflects poorly in the personal attributes section of the Rugby AU Referee Profile and not 'Owning It'.