

 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 

MATCH OFFICIAL HANDBOOK 2025



NSWRUGBYREFEREES.COM.AU



@NSWRUGBYREFS



@NSWRUGBYREFS

WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another exciting rugby season.

Your dedication and expertise are crucial to the success and integrity of our game, and I want to express my deepest gratitude for the important role you play. Rugby is a sport built on respect, fairness, and discipline.

As match officials, you embody these values, ensuring that players can compete safely and within the laws of the game. Your decisions are made under pressure and often with little recognition, but your contribution is essential to maintaining the spirit and standards of rugby.

Know that your efforts are appreciated not just by NSWRRRA but by the entire rugby community. You are role models on the field, promoting the core values that make rugby unique.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and passion. Wishing you a rewarding and successful season filled with memorable moments.

Stuart Dickinson
President

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ABOUT NSWRRRA

NSWRRRA was established in 1892 and is one of the oldest referee associations in the world. We are the peak body for rugby union match officials servicing all competitions within the metropolitan Sydney area.

We provide match officials to over 3000 fixtures during the season from U10s all the way up to Sydney Premiership (Shute Shield).

Our members include many current and former international and professional match officials and we are extremely fortunate to be able to tap into their expertise for the betterment of our members.



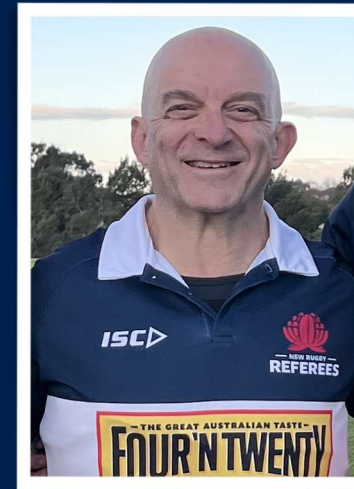
The first conference of NSW Rugby Referees 1894
Back Row: JF McManamey (President), HA Langley (Vice President).
Front Row: L Stockham (Hon Secretary), WS Cook, EC Graham (Newcastle)

NSWRRA EXECUTIVE

The Executive are all volunteer roles that are appointed at the annual AGM by the membership for the subsequent 12 months.



STUART DICKINSON
PRESIDENT



ROB MCKAY
SECRETARY



PAUL WORSLEY
TREASURER



IAN MOONEY
GENERAL MEMBER



CLARE ADAMSON
GENERAL MEMBER

STRUCTURE

NSWRRA EXECUTIVE

Development & Appointments Committee – “DAC”

Chair
IAN SMITH

Development & Pathways

Referees
CHRIS MULCAHY

Developers
MIKE EDYE

Juniors
RICHARD CHEN

Women
ALEX MARSH

Secretary
ANDY BERNARD

Gradings and Appointments
JULIUS AMBAT, JOHN GOH

Development Officer - NSWRRRA
DIVAN UYS

Development Officer - Juniors
JACK JONES

Sub-Committees

Referee Operations
PETER GRATTAN

Social
CAITLIN WINSLADE

Events
ALEX BUCKLAND

Welfare
MAX HEARN-SARCHFIELD

Commercial & Gear
PAUL WORSLEY

NSWRU Referee Department

Referee Manager
ALEX RICHARDS

Appointments - Seniors
KIM TAUFA

Appointments - Juniors
JACK JONES/HAMISH MCKAY

 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 

GETTING STARTED



ADMINISTRATION

Rugby Xplorer is the central management platform from which almost all our rugby related activities operate.

For NSWRRRA this includes:

- Member Details
- Registration
- Accreditation
- Appointments management - notification, MO accept/reject
- Availability – enter unavailability for appointments
- Related Teams – management of officiating conflicts
- Send Offs – compile and submit reports
- Ref Review – submit and review match feedback and coaching reports
- Learning Centre – access to accreditation, course and education resources

RUGBY

XPLORER

Rugby Xplorer operates on desktop via the internet at www.xplorer.rugby

Or via Apple and Android applications



ACCREDITATION

Individuals that wish to be appointed to fixtures as a match officials for NSWRRRA need to have appropriate accreditation. The relevant accreditations and progression are as follows:

Referee

- Referee Ready* (entry level accreditation)
- Smart Rugby* (bi-annual requirement)
- Season Ready* (annual requirement)
- Level 1 Match Official
- Level 2 Match Official

** Minimum required to officiate for NSWRRRA*

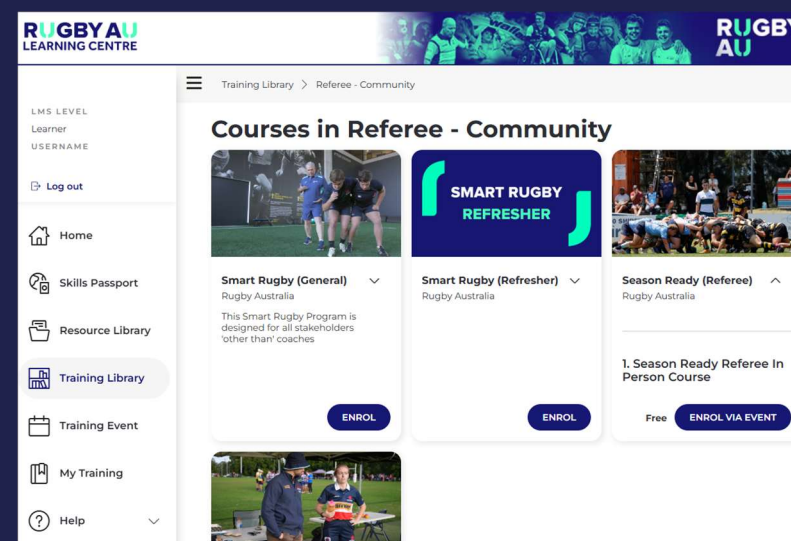
Assistant Referee

- Level 1 Assistant Referee
- Level 2 Assistant Referee

Match Official Developer

- Level 1 Match Official Developer
- Level 2 Match Official Developer

All courses relevant to match officials (and many others) are found in the RugbyAU Learning Centre. You will find the link to this platform on your menu bar in Rugby Xplorer



The screenshot displays the RugbyAU Learning Centre interface. At the top, the 'RUGBYAU LEARNING CENTRE' logo is visible on the left, and the 'RUGBY AU' logo is on the right. Below the header, a navigation bar shows 'Training Library > Referee - Community'. The main content area is titled 'Courses in Referee - Community' and features three course cards: 'Smart Rugby (General)', 'Smart Rugby (Refresher)', and 'Season Ready (Referee)'. Each card includes a thumbnail image, the course title, the provider 'Rugby Australia', a brief description, and an 'ENROL' button. The 'Season Ready (Referee)' card also includes a 'Free ENROL VIA EVENT' button. A left-hand sidebar contains navigation options: 'LMS LEVEL', 'Learner USERNAME', 'Log out', 'Home', 'Skills Passport', 'Resource Library', 'Training Library' (highlighted), 'Training Event', 'My Training', and 'Help'.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Q1. Do you intend to be appointed to fixtures by NSWRRRA?

YES = Referee/Referee Coach/Assistant Referee

NO = Non-Appointed Association Member

Q2. Are you a full-time student or NSWRRRA Life Member?

Q3. Why do you wish to be a member of NSWRRRA?

YES

NO

I just want to!

I'm a former member/ Alumni

I'd like to wear the NSW Rugby Referees kit for my non-NSWRRRA appointments*



I want to improve as a match official and would like to access the education and training provided by NSWRRRA

Other

STUDENT
\$27.50

LIFE
\$0

GENERAL
\$90.00

ALUMNI
\$27.50

ASSOCIATE
\$70.00

* Active match official accreditation is required to receive on-field kit

ACTION

1. Login to Rugby Explorer <https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/>
2. Register for **New South Wales Rugby Referees Association**
3. Select **Role**: Match Official and **Type**: as per answer to Q1
4. Add a **Saleable Item** for applicable membership category

Please contact secretary@nswrugbyreferees.com.au to discuss membership further

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Registration Table		Match Official				
		Referee/Referee Coach/Assistant Referee			Non-Appointed Association Member	
Appointed to fixtures by NSWRRRA?		YES	YES	YES/NO	NO	NO
Member Type		GENERAL	STUDENT	LIFE	ASSOCIATE	ALUMNI
NSWRRRA Membership Entitlements						
	NSWRRRA Negotiated Reimbursements	✓	✓	✓		
Gear/ Equipment	On-Field Kit	✓	✓	✓	✓ active accreditation	
	Off-Field Kit	✓	✓	✓		
	Association Polo	✓	✓	✓		✓
	NSWRRRA items	✓	✓	✓	Exec Approved	Exec Approved
Development	Education Events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Coaching/Mentoring	✓	✓	✓		
	Training Programs	✓	✓	✓		
	Representative/Travel	✓	✓	✓		
	Training Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Social Events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION

APPOINTMENTS AND AVAILABILITY

Competition	Match	Time	Status	Referee	AR1	AR2
NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 5th Grade - Sutherland Cup	Mosman vs Colleagues	08:30	Fixture	Conor Power	Oscar Jones	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 4th Grade - Judd Cup	Colleagues vs Waverley	10:00	Fixture	Wayne Cusack	Chris Mulcahy	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 3rd Grade - Whiston Cup	St Patrick's vs Colleagues	12:00	Fixture	Zac Martin	Toby Brandon-Cooper	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 2nd Grade - Kentwell Cup	Hunters Hill vs Waverley	15:15	Fixture	Thomas Hughes	Harry Pepper	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 1st Grade - Kentwell Cup	Hunters Hill vs Waverley	15:15	Fixture	Ella Goldsmith	Tom McLean	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th Division 2nd Grade - Grose Cup	Merrylands vs Rockdale	13:20	Fixture	Louis Trisley	Tom Chadwick	
NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th Division 1st Grade - McLean Cup	Sydney Irish vs Merrylands	15:00	Fixture	Sandy Roberts	Glen Paterson	
Sydney Rugby Union - 4th Grade Premiership - Henderson Cup	Randwick vs Manly	09:15	Fixture	Nathan Shute	Paul Worsley	
Sydney Rugby Union - 3rd Grade Premiership - Henderson Shield	Randwick vs Eastwood	11:00	Fixture	Todd Cummings	Jack Larkin	

NSWRRA APPOINTMENTS

Almost all rugby appointments across NSW is managed and automated through the Rugby Explorer system and administered by the Appointments Officers within NSWRU.

NSWRRA is responsible for appointing to the following competitions:

- Sydney Rugby Union Premiership
- Sydney Women's Rugby Union Premiership
- Suburban Rugby Union
- Sydney Junior Rugby Union
- AAGPS, CAS, ISA Opens (1XV, 2XV) and AAGPS 3XV

From time to time, NSWRRA is also invited to provide match officials for various other competitions and fixtures (e.g. age group representative, State Championships, midweek competitions, 7s, schools)

All appointments made by the Development and Appointments Committee consider multiple factors in determining. These include referee gradings, match gradings, game circumstances, referee coach feedback, availability, logistics, and other factors.

Appointments will usually be sent to members on the Tuesday (Seniors) or Thursday (Juniors) before the weekend's matches, however for planning purposes, the DAC generally operates on draft appointments at least two weeks in advance.

With the breadth of fixtures ranging from u10s through to the semi-professional Shute Shield, NSWRRA can support match officials at any level with a suitable and challenging fixtures.

REFEREE AND MATCH GRADINGS

REFEREE GRADINGS

One of the most impactful roles the DAC has, is in the grading of our match officials. The DAC takes this very seriously and there are significant processes in the background to, as best we can, appropriately position our members on a relative scale.

All gradings and coaching of NSWRRRA MOs is within a national framework. Primarily for MOs, there are three profiles in which all MOs across Australia fit:

- Game Facilitator – First steps and learning to officiate
- Community – the vast majority of NSWRRRA members
- Performance – within NSWRRRA this is our Shute Shield Panel MOs

Refer to the [Rugby Australia Match Official Framework](#) for more detail.

MATCH GRADINGS






Like match officials, all matches that we appoint to are also considered on a scale. Primarily with a base grading and an indicative experience level required that is appropriate for that grade.

However, when appointments are made, the DAC also reviews many other factors and context for the game in appointing referees with match gradings (e.g. development opportunity, local derby, result importance, respective team quality, external attention, prior incidents)

Within NSWRRRA, the DAC controls all selections, appointments and gradings independent of the Executive and operates with defined policies and processes. The key policies, with respect to grading (and regrading), appointments and finals selection can be found here under [Processes](#) on our website.

WHAT GAMES CAN I OFFICIATE?

NSWRRA can provide members with opportunity for fixtures at all experience levels, formats and timing.

COMPETITION		JUNIORS		SRU	SWRU	SUBBIES	SCHOOLS		MIDWEEK/ OTHER
									
AGE GROUPS	U6-U9	U10 – U18	Seniors, Colts	Womens	Seniors, Womens, Colts,	OPENS (u18)	U12-u16	All	
FORMAT	Pathway	Pathway	XVs	XVs, 10s, 7s	XVs, 10s, 7s	XV	Pathway	XVs, 10s, 7s	
WHO APPOINTS?	Home Clubs	NSWRRA, SNRR, SWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	Home School	NSWRU, NSWRRA	
MINIMUM MO REQUIREMENT	Smart Rugby Referee Ready	Assoc Member Smart Rugby Referee Ready	Asso Member Smart Rugby Lvl 1 MO Season Ready	AssocMember Smart Rugby Referee Ready Season Ready	Assoc Member Smart Rugby Referee Ready Season Ready	Assoc'Member Smart Rugby Lvl 1 MO Season Ready	Smart Rugby Referee Ready	Smart Rugby Referee Ready	
WHEN?	FRI EVE		✓					✓	
	SAT AM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	SAT PM			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	SUN AM	✓	✓					✓	
	SUN PM							✓	
	MIDWK							✓	

AVAILABILITY AND GAME DAY ADMIN

AVAILABILITY

The planning for appointments has a two week lead time and It is expected that all members will notify NSWRRRA of their availability to fulfill fixtures.

This can be easily managed for each member through the Rugby Xplorer portal. As soon as you are aware of any unavailability up to two weeks prior, please update within the system. Should there be short notice (less than 2 weeks) of the expected unavailability, you will be required to notify the respective Appointments Officer as you may already have been allocated a draft fixture.

REPORTS

Send-offs (red cards) and blue cards need to be reported to the respective senior and junior appointments officer.

- By text, asap after the game has concluded - Grade, Team, Number
- Rugby Xplorer Send Off Report - **completed within 24 hours of the fixture**

RESPECT RUGBY

Fortunately, rugby has a good culture and crowds are generally well behaved. However, that is not always the case and everyone in the rugby world wants to stamp out negative behaviours.

The first step in doing so is to report it and Rugby Australia has a <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/reporting-a-concern>

NSWRRRA will support all members making a report in this regard.

If you are not sure whether to report an incident, speak with a colleague, your referee coach, or anyone from our executive, and they will help you through the process.

Most Sydney competitions use the Fusesport app for gameday scoring and player management - helpful for information if not collected on ground



MATCH REIMBURSEMENTS 2025

REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS

NSWRRA has negotiated flat rates for the match official services that we provide across all our competitions. All income collected for the provision of referee services from regular and ad hoc fixtures is distributed to members.

The negotiations with each competition differ with respect to their requirements, but the intent is that, with just a few exceptions for Performance match officials all are members are equitably reimbursed for their effort and cost.

NSWRRA underwrites the base amount in the table opposite as the minimum for the upcoming season. During July/August the income collected across the season is reviewed and, if available, top up reimbursements are approved to the items with a *.

At this stage, we do not reimburse match officials for trials. The Executive is working to amend this for future seasons.

FIXTURE	ROLE	BASE REIMBURSEMENT
SRU - Shute Shield	Referee	\$130
	Assistant Referee	\$30
SRU - 2s, Colts 1	Referee	\$60*
	Assistant Referee	\$20
All other NSWRRR Fixtures	Referee	\$45*
	Assistant Referee	\$20
	Senior Finals - Ref/AR	\$25
SJRU - Junior Fixtures	Referee	\$40

MATCH REIMBURSEMENTS 2025

REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS

NSWRRA reimbursements are calculated on a quarterly cycle (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun etc) and can be paid in the month following the end of each quarter.

Members have the option for payments to be made quarterly, at end of the main XVs season (Sept) or, should they wish, make a tax-deductible donation back to NSWRRRA.

If you are new to NSWRRRA, then please email the Treasurer with your option and also provide appropriate banking details (Account name, BSB, Number).

If your chosen option or bank details change, please notify the Treasurer by calling directly or email.

DONATIONS

NSWRRA works with the NSW Positive Rugby Foundation and the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) to facilitate tax-deductible donations to our Association.

Members receive a tax receipt from ASF for full donation to claim on their tax return. 95% of the funds donated are then held by NSW Positive Rugby Foundation for the sole use and drawdown by NSWRRRA.

We are very grateful to our members who have donated over \$65,000 in the last 4 years which has supported multiple projects for the benefit of members.



 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 

GEAR POLICY AND DISTRIBUTION


— NSW RUGBY —
REFEREES

Proudly supporting
**Black Dog
Institute**

ISCD

GREAT AUSTRALIAN TASTE —
FOUR 'N TWENTY

— THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN TASTE —
FOUR 'N TWENTY

NSWRRRA GEAR POLICY

We will support our members with appropriate attire to fulfill activities on behalf of NSWRRRA.

We are proud of the reputation that is associated with match officials wearing our kit and delivering on expectations that external stakeholders have on those that wear our kit



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

There is no cost to our members for the gear entitlement, however members should be aware it represents one of the largest expenditures.

Expectations of Members:

Members will wear the current active kit when representing NSWRRRA and any older versions should only be worn in an emergency.

The gear is provided to fulfill activities on behalf of NSWRRRA. In return for the free entitlement, Members will support NSWRRRA in fulfilling a reasonable level of activities

Members should endeavour to take what they need to fulfill their level of NSWRRRA activities. All excessive allocations are a waste of Association funds.

Use of the gear for non-Association activities should be considered with respect to the replacement policies. E.g. free replacement likely to be denied if "worn out" when a low level of Association appointments are observed

NSWRRA GEAR DISTRIBUTION

NSWRRA manages the ordering and replacement of gear through our online shop. The following pages set out our gear policy and entitlements.

The shop indicates a cost for items, but if they fall within an entitlement then coupon codes can be issued to members for the appropriate discounts (email the Treasurer).

Collection of any orders is available by appointment at NSWRU HQ (Daceyville) or at NSWRRRA Education events.

Should you be unable to attend in person, a flat rate shipping option is also available at member 's expense.

The shop can be found here:
www.nswrugbyreferees.com.au/shop

NSWRRA-SNRR-SWRRRA GEAR SHOP

GEAR ENTITLEMENT

NSWRRA, SNRR and SWRRRA provide branded on-field and off-field uniforms for our members to wear when at appointed fixtures.

Member match officials will, for free, receive a match top, shorts and socks and additional items that the respective Associations have agreed to provide under their gear policies (e.g. whistle, cards, training, Association Polo)

Refer to your Association gear steward (SNRR, SWRRRA) or treasurer@nswrugbyreferees.com.au (NSWRRA) for full details of your gear policy and to obtain the appropriate coupon code for use in the shop.

COLLECTION AND SHIPPING

All items are held at NSW Rugby Centre of Excellence in Daceyville.

Local pick up is by appointment at that location or, with notice, also at Association events, such as GMG's or monthly education nights.

A flat rate shipping option is available at the match official's expense.

Orders will, subject to availability of volunteers, be picked and prepared for shipping weekly and sent out on a Tuesday. Should you require your items more urgently, discuss with your Association gear steward.

MOD Padded Vest
\$0.00 (inc GST)

Match Polo 2024-2026
\$55.00 (inc GST)

Match Jersey 2024-2026
\$55.00 (inc GST)

Match Short 2024-2026
\$44.00 (inc GST)

NSWRRA - ONFIELD KIT






Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

ON FIELD KIT - 2024-26		MEMBER ENTITLEMENT	EXTRAS	REPLACEMENT EXCEPTIONS
		1x (ONE) Match Polo OR Match Jersey per sponsor cycle (i.e. one for 2024 to 2026)	1x (ONE) if consistently: • Multiple appointments in a day • Multiple appointments in a weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • fair, wear and tear from NSWRRR activities (considered unlikely before 50 fixtures) • junior members outgrowing
Match Polo	Match Jersey			
2XS-4XL, F8-F22	2XS-4XL, F8-F22			
		1x (ONE) per sponsor cycle (i.e. one for 2024 to 2026)	Case by case approval by Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • fair, wear and tear from NSWRRR activities (considered unlikely before 50 fixtures) • junior members outgrowing
Match Short				
2XS-4XL, F8-F22				
		1x (ONE) annually	Case by case approval by Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • fair, wear and tear from NSWRRR activities • junior members outgrowing
Match Socks				
2-7, 8-11, 12-14				

NSWRRA - OFF FIELD KIT



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

OFF FIELD KIT – 2024-26		MEMBER ENTITLEMENT	EXTRAS	REPLACEMENT EXCEPTIONS
		<p>1x (ONE)</p> <p>Until redesign or replacement exception met</p>	<p>Case by case approval by Executive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • fair, wear and tear from Association activities • junior members outgrowing
Association Polo				
2XS-4XL, F8-F22				
		<p>1x (ONE)</p> <p>EITHER</p> <p>Sport Jacket + Track Pants</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Rain Jacket</p> <p>Until redesign or replacement exception met</p>	<p>Case by case approval by Executive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • fair, wear and tear from Association activities • junior members outgrowing
Sport Jacket	Track Pants			
2XS-4XL, F8-F22	2XS-4XL, F8-F22			
				
Rain Jacket		<p>Associations may apply a minimum game thresholds prior to distribution</p>		
2-7, 8-11, 12-14				

NSWRRA - NEW MEMBER REFEREEE





Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

NEW REFEREE KIT – 2024-26	MEMBER ENTITLEMENT
	<p>As per On-Field Kit Entitlement</p>
ON-FIELD KIT	
	<p>As per Off-Field Kit Entitlement</p>
OFF-FIELD KIT	
	<p>1x (ONE) Acme Thunderer 58.5</p> <p>1x(ONE) Referee Card Set</p>
ACCESSORIES	

NSWRRA - OTHER



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

OTHER KIT - 2025	MEMBER ENTITLEMENT
	<p>1x provided for attendance at NSWRRRA training</p>
TRAINING KIT	
	<p>1x for "Active" Match Official Developers</p>
MOD PUFFER VEST	

 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 

REFEREE OPERATIONS


NSW RUGBY
REFEREES

The Rugby Club
Foundation

Sharing the spirit of the game

This equipment has been funded by
The Rugby Club Foundation in partnership with NSWRRRA



COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

The use of communications equipment for our match officials has transformed the speed at which development can occur. NSWRRRA has invested heavily in this and we now have a fleet of over 20 sets of Team of 3 (To3) equipment and all Match Official Developers have a coaching kit to listen in to the Referee.

All Shute Shield, Prem Colts 1, Kentwell and Barraclough Cup games are covered with by NSWRRRA Team's of 3 (To3) all miked up together for live communications.

The logistics and locations of the equipment is managed and tracked through the following document.

[\[Find the 2025 link here closer to season start\]](#)

Any questions or issues please contact refops@nswrugbyreferees.com.au.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

- Appointed Referee is primarily responsible for sourcing and obtaining communications gear for their To3
- If NSWRRRA ARs are appointed, your comms kits should always be utilised if available (Shute, Prem Colts 1, Kentwell, Barraclough)
- Referee is responsible for the care of each kit – replacement cost is either \$6,000 (Shute Shield) or \$2,000
- Holders of the kit will update the logistics management sheet – you are wasting other members' time if you do not do this
- Holders of the kit will advise RefOps of any problems, damage, maintenance issues asap on discovery

Failure by a member to take these expectations seriously will cause the use of comms kits by that member to be reconsidered by the Executive

GAME REVIEW TECHNOLOGY

A significant part of our culture for the betterment of NSWRRRA match officials is a self-led approach and ownership of their development.

NSWRRRA seeks to strongly support this with the provision and access to tools and technology for a match official to review their performance.

This is provided in addition to the people based coaching and squad structures that are in place.

Should you have any questions or issues with respect to accessing the available tools, please reach out to refops@nswrugbyreferees.com.au



A significant number of Seniors fixtures are streamed via NSW Rugby TV and available to review.

If no coach is on ground,, some Ref only Comms kits are available to enable comms to be heard with vision.



Where match footage is stored on the Hudl platform (primarily SRU 1s,2s Colts 1s) members will be provided with access to review their games.



The coaching and reporting tool is evolving and presently is designed to capture the end result of the interactions between a match official and the match official developer. This is found on your RX menu bar

 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

When fulfilling our roles as match officials we are often spread far and wide across Sydney and thus catching up with your fellow members and peers can be challenging.

Despite this NSWRRRA seeks to foster a “club” environment through regular opportunities to connect with fellow members .

- Education and development
- Opt-in match official squads
- Training
- Social events

Attendance at these events is open to all from the 1st year members to our International representative members and all in between.



EDUCATION

EDUCATION

NSWRRA is committed to the continuing development and education of its members. Education nights are run regularly throughout the season covering a variety of topics for both referees and match official developers at all levels.

The locations are varied with our “home” venue at NSWRU Headquarters in Daceyville and “away” venues rotating round differing clubs around Sydney.

Monthly education meetings are on the first Thursday of each month and have a similar format each month:

- Association update and messages
- Technical/development content led by the DAC
- Social engagement

Active members and those with aspirations towards the higher referee gradings should be attending the majority of these meetings.

2025 CALENDAR

TYPE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
EDUCATION			
April Ed Night	3 Apr	7pm	TBC
May Ed Night	1 May	7pm	NSWRU HQ
June Ed Night	29 May	7pm	TBC
July Ed Night	3 Jul	7pm	TBC
August Ed Night	7 Aug	7pm	NSWRU HQ
RA NATIONAL WEBINARS			Register in Learning Centre
Game Setup/Interactions	11 Mar	7.30pm	Damon Murphy, Jess Ling
ARing/To3	8 Apr	7.30pm	Reuben Keane, Tyler Miller
Contextual Refereeing	13 May	7.30pm	Angus Gardner, Amber McLachlan
Refereeing the Set Piece	10 Jun	7.30pm	Jordan Way, Sarah Porter
Dealing with Pressure/HIDs	8 Jul	7.30pm	Nic Berry, Ella Goldsmith
EVENTS			
GMGs	2 Mar	9.30am	NSWRU HQ
Test – Lions/Wallaroos	31 Jul	[TBC]	[TBC]
Test – TRC, Argentina	11 Sep	[TBC]	[TBC]

NSWRRRA TRAINING

An important part of the Referee Profile is the ability to be where you need to be relative to the grade of fixture. NSWRRRA supports this with services provided by professional personal trainers and training programs targeted in support of the Referee Profile.

These sessions are specifically designed irrespective of age or fitness level and there is often in excess of a 40 year age gap between the youngest and oldest attendee!

The Community session is held at 6:30pm on a Wednesday evening and is located at Shore Playing Fields in Northbridge during daylight saving months and then at Boronia Park, Hunters Hill.

Additional training is also available on a Monday evening. This session is targeted at the requirements of our Performance MOs, but all are welcome to attend.

During the off-season additional training sessions are offered on Sundays and they rotate through locations north, south and inner west.

Live information on times, locations, weather, etc there is a training WhatsApp group.

Contact Phil Baird (0408 431 415) to be added to the group.



NSWRRA – 2025 TRAINING PROGRAM

LOCATION	TIME	DATES	OBJECTIVE	ACCOUNTABILITY
MONDAY SESSIONS				
ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL, SYDNEY PARK, ERSKINVILLE	6.30pm	25 Nov - 16 Dec 13 Jan onwards	Performance MOs	Performance MO benchmarks
WEDNESDAY SESSIONS				
SHORE SPORTS GROUNDS, NORTHBRIDGE	6.30pm	13 Nov - 18 Dec	Endurance	2.4km TT - 18 Dec
		8 Jan - 12 Feb	Speed	40m TT Speed Gates - 12 Feb
		19 Feb - 19 Mar	Agility, Speed, Endurance	Bronco 1 - 19 Mar
		26 Mar	All round + strength	
BORONIA PARK #2, HUNTERS HILL	6:30pm	2 Apr - 14 May	All round + strength	Team Challenge - 14 May
		21 May - 16 July	Agility, Speed, Endurance	Bronco 2 - 9 Jul
		23 July - 3 Sept	Maintenance, Taper	Touch Footy - 3 Sep
SUNDAY SESSIONS				
QUEENS PARK BAY RUN, ROZELLE NARRABEEN SAND HILLS OTHER	8am	Sundays up to 23 Feb	General, Fun	
MANLY DAM (Trail Run)	7:30am	16 Feb	General, Fun	Sydney Trail Series, Short Course
DACEYVILLE	8am	GMGs – 2 Mar	General	

- Up to date and live comms coordinated through WhatsApp Group - contact Phil Baird to join (0408 431 415)
- Sunday session locations will also be notified in WhatsApp

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

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NSWRRRA looks to provide opportunity for members to engage with each other at periodic events throughout the season.

In prior seasons these include:

- Season Launch - social event to reconnect and kick off the season
- “Pub of the Month” - one Saturday evening each month come join your fellow match officials with a drink or two on NSWRRRA
- Test Referee Function - NSWRRRA hosts the incoming international referees ahead of the Sydney Wallaby test match(s). All members are free to join for a casual night with a little Q&A and a catch up with some of the best
- Annual Presentation evening - celebrating NSWRRRA season and our award recipients

The Social Committee are always open to new ideas or suggestions, so please reach out and we will look to make it happen.



 **NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION** 

WRAP UP



NSWRRA TIPS & TRICKS

Know your Comp Rules.

Each competition has its rules which deal with issues such as match duration, subs, time out for injury, and related issues.

ALWAYS finish your match on time.

The trickle-down effect of matches running behind can be significant, especially with an increasing number of games being broadcast. Shorten up the halves, shorten halftime, and adjust. The match following yours **MUST** start on time.

Be Positive. If you think you should be refereeing the World Cup Final, but instead find yourself refereeing a 4th grade Subbies match, look for the positives (easier travel and you finish earlier in the day).

Know Your Grounds. Some grounds have annoyingly similar names or multiple fields with different parking and access issues. Do not be caught out!

Unappointed Matches. If you step in to referee a match to which you are not appointed, notify Kim Taufu (senior matches) or Jack Jones (junior matches). This will cover you for insurance and ensure you are reimbursed.

Arrive Early.

Absolutely no later than halftime of the match before yours, but ideally an hour before. Traffic and parking at some grounds can be bad!

Allow even more time if you are being coached, or in a team of three with communications equipment.

NEVER "no-show". A "no-show" is where a referee is appointed but does not turn up and there is no advice to the contrary. If you cannot make it to your match, you **MUST** let Kim Taufu (Senior matches) or Jack Jones (junior matches) know.

CONTACT DETAILS

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