



NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



MATCH OFFICIAL HANDBOOK 2026



NSWRUGBYREFEREES.COM.AU



@NSWRUGBYREFS



@NSWRUGBYREFS

WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you to a new rugby season and to the New South Wales Rugby Referees Association.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another year, thank you for the commitment, professionalism, and integrity you bring to the game.

Our community is made up of both **Match Officials** and **Match Official Developers**, and together your contribution ensures that every match is played safely, fairly, and in the true spirit of rugby.

As an Association, we are focused on creating a positive, connected, and inclusive environment for all members. You are part of a community that spans all levels of the game, and your involvement helps strengthen the pathway for current and future officials across New South Wales.

Approach each match and each development opportunity with confidence, clarity, and pride in the important role you play. Your conduct and professionalism set the standard for how our game is experienced and enjoyed.

Thank you for your dedication and passion. I wish you a safe, rewarding, and enjoyable season filled with growth, connection, and memorable moments both on and off the field.

Stuart Dickinson
President

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ABOUT NSWRRA

NSWRRA 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 course of the season from U10s all the way up to Sydney Premiership (Shute Shield).

We have many current and former international and professional match officials in our ranks and we are extremely fortunate 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

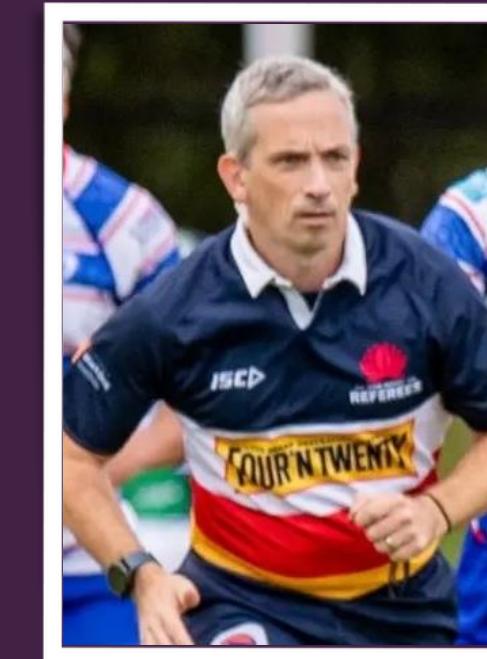
The Executive are all volunteer roles that are appointed at the annual AGM by the membership for the subsequent 12 months.



STUART DICKINSON
PRESIDENT



ALEX RICHARDS
SECRETARY



PAUL WORSLEY
TREASURER



IAN MOONEY
GENERAL MEMBER



CAITLIN WINSLADE
GENERAL MEMBER

STRUCTURE





NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



GETTING STARTED

ADMINISTRATION

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

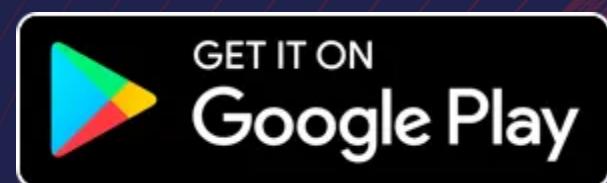
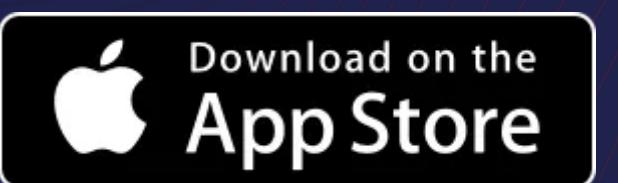
For NSWRRA this includes:

- 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*

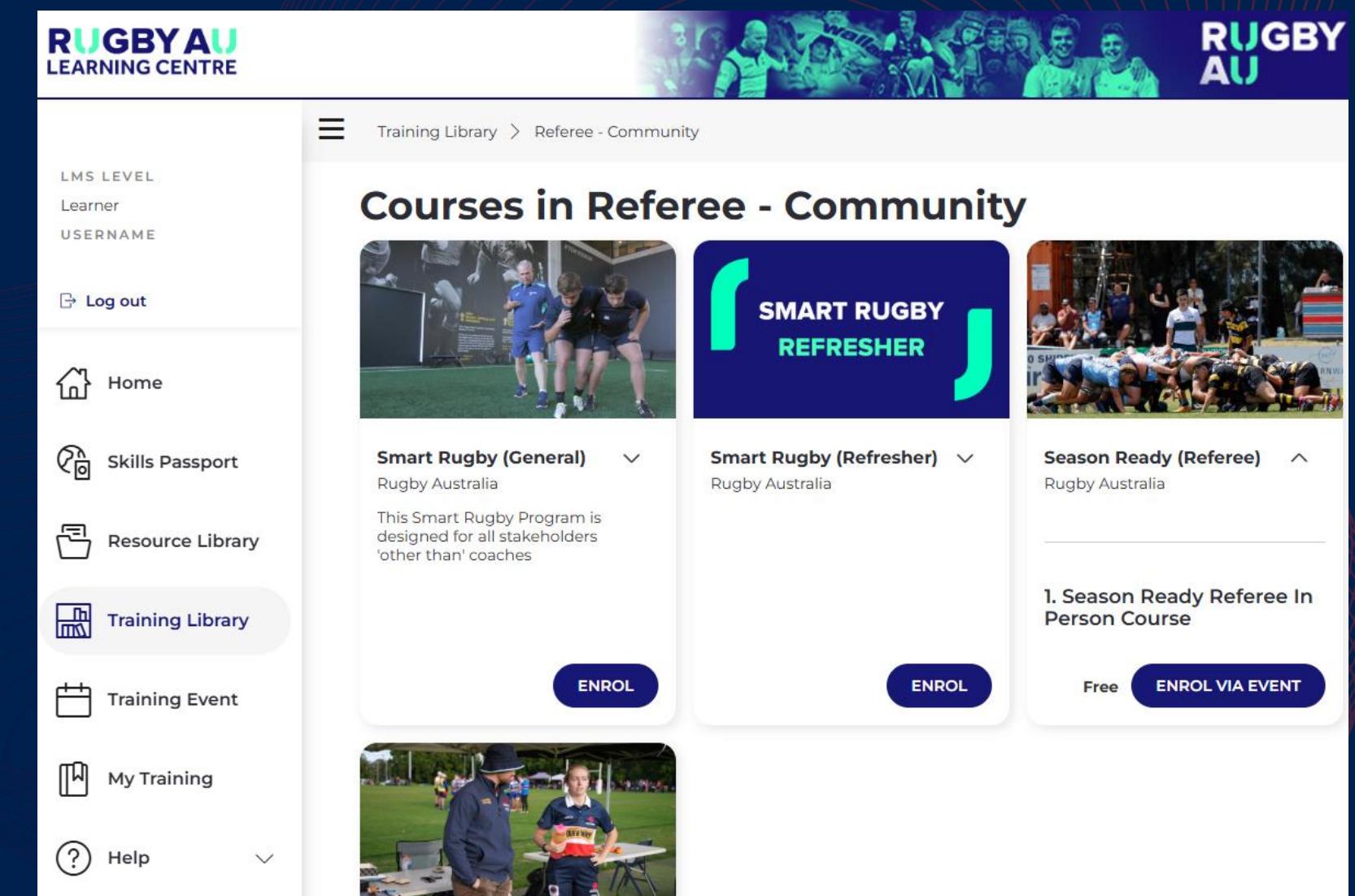
Assistant Referee

- Level 1 Assistant Referee

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 shows the RugbyAU Learning Centre interface. The top navigation bar includes the RugbyAU logo and a 'Training Library' link. The main content area is titled 'Courses in Referee - Community' and lists three courses:

- Smart Rugby (General)** (Rugby Australia): This Smart Rugby Program is designed for all stakeholders 'other than' coaches. It includes an image of a coach and players, and an 'ENROL' button.
- Smart Rugby (Refresher)** (Rugby Australia): It includes an image of a coach and players, and an 'ENROL' button.
- Season Ready (Referee)** (Rugby Australia): It includes an image of a coach and players, and an 'ENROL' button. Below this course, there is a link to '1. Season Ready Referee In Person Course'.

The sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with the following items:

- LMS LEVEL (Learner)
- USERNAME
- Log out
- Home
- Skills Passport
- Resource Library
- Training Library** (highlighted in blue)
- Training Event
- My Training
- Help

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

YES = Referee/Referee Coach/Assistant Referee

NO = Non-Appointed Association Member

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

YES

NO

STUDENT
\$35

LIFE
\$0

GENERAL
\$100

I'm a former
member/ Alumni

ALUMNI
\$35

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



ASSOCIATE
\$80

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

Other

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

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

ACTION

1. Login to Rugby Explorer <https://myaccount.rugbyxplorer.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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

Appointment Report

Appointments for fixtures on Sat 26-Aug-20

Venue: Boronia Park Field 1

Association

NSW Suburban Rugby

Union

Competition
NSW Suburban Rugby
Division 3rd Grade -
Henderson Cup

Match
Colleagues vs Waverley

Time
09:30

Status
Fixture

Referee
Conor Power

AR1
Oscar Jones

AR2
Joseph Lui

Venue: Concord Oval

Association

NSW Suburban Rugby

Union

Venue: Eric Tweedale Stadium (Field 1)

Association

NSW Suburban Rugby

Union

NSW Suburban Rugby

Union

Venue: Leichhardt Oval

Association

Sydney Rugby Union

Union

Sydney Rugby Union

Union

Sydney Rugby Union

Union

NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



Competition
NSW Suburban Rugby
Division 3rd Grade -
Whiddon Cup

Match
Colleagues vs Waverley

Time
10:00

Status
Fixture

Referee
Wayne Cusack

AR1
Chris Mulcahy

AR2
Charles Mulcahy

NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st
Division 4th Grade - Judd
Cup

Match
Drummoyne vs Colleagues

Time
11:05

Status
Fixture

Referee
Zac Martin

AR1
Toby Brandon-Cooper

AR2
Charles Mulcahy

NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st
Division 3rd Grade -
Whiddon Cup

Match
Hunters Hill vs Drummoyne

Time
12:10

Status
Fixture

Referee
Thomas Hughes

AR1
Harry Pepper

AR2
Emmett Karstrom

NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st
Division 2nd Grade - Burke
Cup

Match
Hunters Hill vs Waverley

Time
13:45

Status
Fixture

Referee
Ella Goldsmith

AR1
Tom McLean

AR2
Alexander Buckland

NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th
Division 2nd Grade - Grose
Cup

Match
Merrylands vs Rockdale

Time
13:20

Status
Fixture

Referee
Sandy Roberts

AR1
Glen Paterson

AR2
John Coleman

NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th
Division 1st Grade -
McLean Cup

Match
Sydney Irish vs Merrylands

Time
15:00

Status
Fixture

Referee
Nathan Shute

AR1
Paul Worsley

AR2
Jackson Brislan

Sydney Rugby Union - 4th
Grade Premiership -
Henderson Cup

Match
Randwick vs Manly

Time
09:15

Status
Fixture

Referee
Todd Cummings

AR1
Jack Larkin

AR2

Sydney Rugby Union - 3rd
Grade Premiership -
Henderson Shield

Match
Randwick vs Eastwood

Time
14:00

NSWRRA APPOINTMENTS

Almost all rugby appointments across NSW are 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
- AAGPS, CAS, ISA Opens (1XV, 2XV) and AAGPS 3XV

From time to time, NSWRRRA 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 Wednesday (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, NSWRRRA 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.

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.

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)

WHAT GAMES CAN I OFFICIATE?

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 appointment.

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

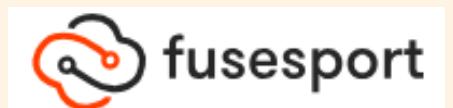
Fortunately, rugby has a good culture and crowds are generally well behaved. However, that is not always the case and everyone in the rugby world wants to stamp out negative behaviours.

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 2026

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 NSWRRRA Fixtures	Referee	\$50*
	Assistant Referee	\$20
SJRU - Junior Fixtures	Senior Finals - Ref/AR	\$25
	Referee	\$40

MATCH REIMBURSEMENTS 2026

REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS

NSWRRA reimbursements are calculated on a quarterly cycle (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun etc) and is generally paid in the third week of 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 NSWRRA.

If you are new to NSWRRA, 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.

NB. Any members who also fulfil SJRU fixtures (juniors) should note that this is reimbursed through RX. You should ensure the appropriate bank details and "Know your Customer" (KYC) process has been completed.

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 NSWRRA.

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





NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



GEAR POLICY AND DISTRIBUTION

— NSW RUGBY —
REFEREES

EAT AUSTRALIAN TASTE —
CONTINENTAL

Proud sporting
Black Dog
Institute

— THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN
FOUR NATION

NSWRRA GEAR POLICY



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

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

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 will only be worn in an emergency

The gear is provided to fulfil 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 reputational inference and the replacement policies

Eg. free replacement likely to be denied if “worn out” when a low level of Association appointments are observed

NSWRRA GEAR DISTRIBUTION

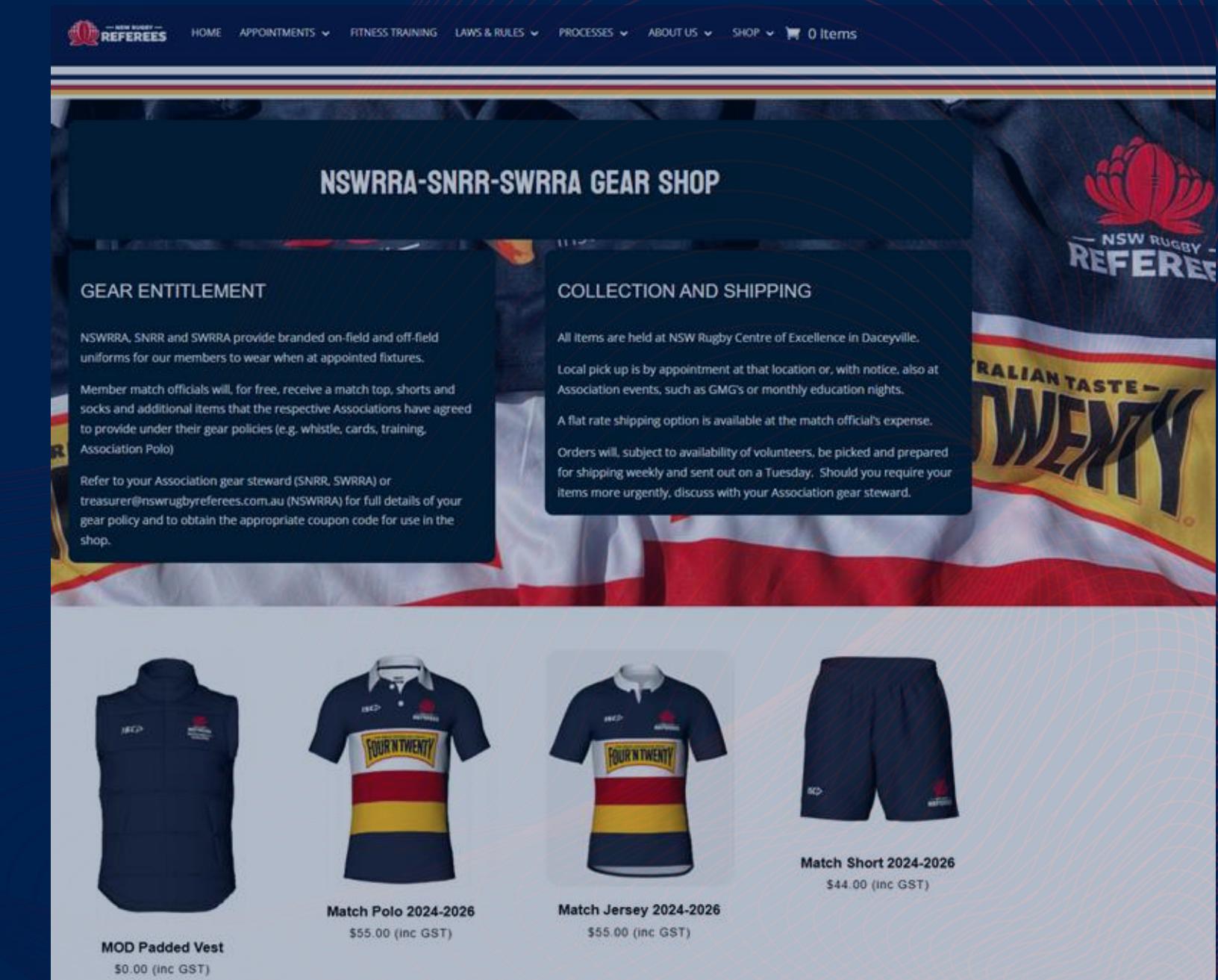
NSWRRA manages the ordering and replacement of gear through our online shop. The following pages set out our gear policy and entitlements.

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



The screenshot shows the NSW Rugby Referees website with a dark blue header. The header includes the logo for 'NSW RUGBY REFEREES', a navigation menu with links to 'HOME', 'APPOINTMENTS', 'FITNESS TRAINING', 'LAWS & RULES', 'PROCESSES', 'ABOUT US', 'SHOP', and a shopping cart icon showing '0 Items'. The main content area is titled 'NSWRRA-SNRR-SWRRA GEAR SHOP'. It features two main sections: 'GEAR ENTITLEMENT' and 'COLLECTION AND SHIPPING'. The 'GEAR ENTITLEMENT' section contains text about gear provided by the associations and details for match officials. The 'COLLECTION AND SHIPPING' section provides information on picking up gear at the NSW Rugby Centre of Excellence and shipping options. Below these sections, there are images of four items: a dark blue 'MOD Padded Vest', a dark blue 'Match Polo 2024-2026', a dark blue 'Match Jersey 2024-2026', and a pair of dark blue 'Match Short 2024-2026'. Each item has a price listed: \$0.00 (inc GST) for the vest, \$55.00 (inc GST) for the polo and jersey, and \$44.00 (inc GST) for the shorts.

NSWRRA - ONFIELD KIT



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

NSWRRA - OFF FIELD KIT



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

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

NSWRRA - NEW MEMBER REFEREE



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

NSWRRA - OTHER



OTHER KIT - 2026	MEMBER ENTITLEMENT
	1x provided for attendance at NSWRRA training
TRAINING KIT	
	1x for “Active” Match Official Developers
MOD PUFFER VEST	



NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



REFEREE OPERATIONS



The Rugby Club
Foundation

Sharing the spirit of the game

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



COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

The use of communications equipment for our match officials has transformed the speed at which development can occur. NSWRRA 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 and record audio with RugbyTV.

All Shute Shield, Prem Colts 1, Kentwell and Barraclough Cup games are covered with by NSWRRA Teams of 3 (To3) all mic'ed up together for live communications.

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

[2026 Comms Distribution Google Sheet](#)

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

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS – COMMS EQUIPMENT

- If NSWRRA ARs are appointed, your comms kit should be used (Shute, Prem Colts 1, Kentwell, Barraclough)
- The appointed Referee is responsible for proactively sourcing and obtaining communications gear for their To3
- Holders of the kit will update the Comms Google Sheet – you are wasting other members' time if you do not do this.
- The Referee is responsible for the care of each kit – replacement cost is either \$6,000 (Shute Shield) or \$2,000 (Community)
- All appointed ARs to TO3 comm'd games need to learn how to set up, test and use comms kits. AR2 should assist the referee with set-up, testing and getting receiver to camera operator
- Issues with NSWTV Access or comms quality - message RefOps
- Issues with comms kit – make comment in Google Sheet

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.

COMMUNITY COMMS KITS

Best Settings

Role	Group	ID	Side Tone	Microphone	Mic Sensitivity	Audio Output	Volume
Referee	(Default as Kit #)	00 MASTER	SF (off)	PO (on)	C1 TALK	UL (Low)	Any
AR	As per Ref	01 / 02	SF (off)	PO (on)	C1 or C2 TALK	UL (Low)	Any
Video	As per Ref	05	SF (off)	PF (off)	N/A	UL (Low)	03



RefPro Troubleshooting

- Lock (LC) and Unlock – press 2 front buttons together
- To change any setting, press and hold “mode” button and press mode to scroll through menu. Use Volume button to change setting.
- All radios in TO3 to be on Same Group. If in tournament (or with multi games in close proximity) make sure radios of multi TO3
- Ensure AR radios are ID (01 and 02) and are unique IDs
- Check Volume settings
- Ear Tube blocked / kinked is a common issue. Spare ear tubes should be available in each kit.
- All radio instruction guides are available as links in the Comms Google Sheet



GAME REVIEW TECHNOLOGY

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

NSWRRA 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.

Annual subscription code and instructions to access NSW Rugby TV will be provided at start of each season from RefOps.

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.

2026 CALENDAR

TYPE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
EDUCATION			
March Ed Night	26 Mar	7pm	NSWRU HQ
May Ed Night	7 May	7pm	TBC
June Ed Night	11 Jun	7pm	TBC
July Ed Night	3 Jul	7pm	TBC
August Ed Night	6 Aug	7pm	TBC
RA NATIONAL WEBINARS			Register in Learning Centre
Female Match Officiating	11 Mar	6pm	Ella Goldsmith, Maggie Cogger Orr, Amy Perrett, Jess Ling
Remainder TBC shortley	Apr		
	May		
	Jun		
	Jul		
EVENTS			
GMGs	1 Mar	11am	NSWRU HQ, DACEYVILLE
Test Function – Ireland	1 Jul	[TBC]	[TBC]
Test Function – NZ	14 Oct	[TBC]	[TBC]

NSWRRA TRAINING

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

These sessions are specifically designed to suit all ages and fitness levels. There is often a 40 year age gap between the youngest and oldest attendee!

The Community session is held at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings 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 – 2026 TRAINING PROGRAM

LOCATION	TIME	DATES	OBJECTIVE	ACCOUNTABILITY
MONDAY SESSIONS				
ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL, SYDNEY PARK, ERSKINVILLE	6.30pm	12 Jan – 26 Jan From 2 Feb	Performance MOs	Performance MO benchmarks
TURRUWUL PARK, ROSEBERRY (from 2 Feb)				
WEDNESDAY SESSIONS				
SHORE SPORTS GROUNDS, NORTHBRIDGE	6.30pm	12 Nov - 17 Dec 7 Jan - 11 Feb 18 Feb - 18 Mar 25 Mar	Endurance Speed Agility, Speed, Endurance All round + strength	2.4km TT - 18 Dec 40m TT Speed Gates - 11 Feb Bronco 1 - 18 Mar
BORONIA PARK #2, HUNTERS HILL	6:30pm	1 Apr - 13 May 20 May - 15 July 22 July - 2 Sept	All round + strength Agility, Speed, Endurance Maintenance, Taper	Bronco 2 - 8 Jul Touch Footy - 2 Sep

•Up to date and live comms coordinated through WhatsApp Groups for Monday and Wednesday – request to join from the NSWRRRA WhatsApp community.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

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

During the season these include:

- Season Launch - social event to reconnect and kick off the season
- “Event of the Month” - Join your fellow match officials one Saturday evening each month for a rotating program of social events, including pub gatherings and other activities supported by NSWRRA.
- Test Referee Function - NSWRRA 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 NSWRRA season and our award recipients

The Social and Events Committees 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 Competition Rules. Each competition has its rules which deal with issues such as match duration, subs, time out for injury, and related issues.

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).

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.**

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

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

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 Taufa (Senior matches) or Jack Jones (junior matches) know.

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

NAME	Role	EMAIL	PHONE
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