

 **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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Welcome & About NSWRRRA**
- **Getting Started**
- **Appointments and Availability**
- **Gear Policy and Distribution**
- **Referee Operations**
- **Member Engagement**
- **Contacts**

# 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 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)



# NSWRRRA 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 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 XPLOER

Rugby Xplorer operates on desktop via the internet at [www.xplorer.rugby](http://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

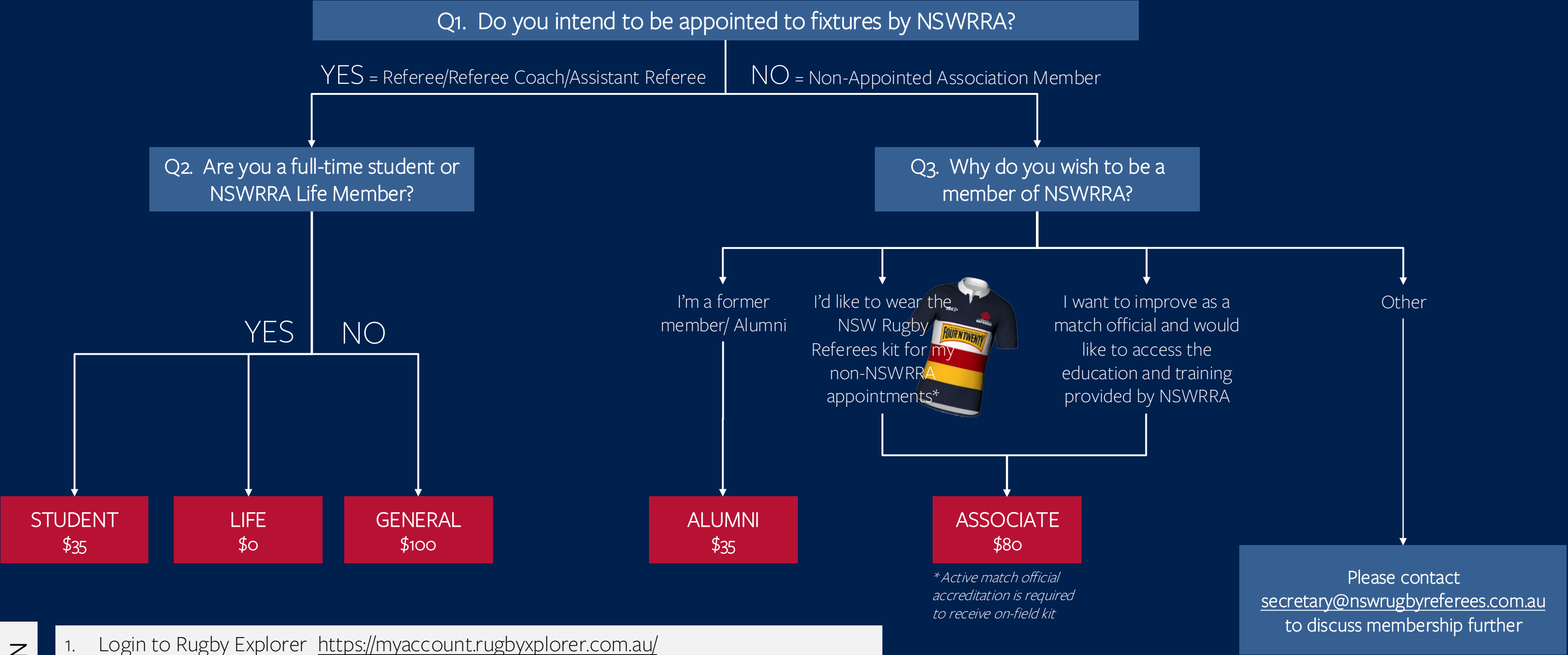
- Level 1 Match Official Developer
- Level 2 Match Official Developer

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 displays the RugbyAU Learning Centre interface. At the top, the 'RUGBY AU 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' label and an 'ENROL VIA EVENT' button. A sidebar on the left contains a list of navigation options: 'Home', 'Skills Passport', 'Resource Library', 'Training Library' (highlighted), 'Training Event', 'My Training', and 'Help'.



# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



## 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

# 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	✓	✓	✓	✓ with 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

Appointments for fixtures on Sat 26-Aug-20									
Venue	Association	Competition	Match	Time	Status	Referee	AR1	AR2	
Boronia Park Field 1	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 4th Grade - Judd Cup	Colleagues vs Waverley	09:30	Fixture	Conor Power	Oscar Jones	Joseph Lui	
Concord Oval	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 3rd Grade - Whiddon Cup	Drummoyne vs Colleagues	10:00	Fixture	Wayne Cusack	Chris Mulcahy	Charles Mulcahy	
	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 2nd Grade - Burkes Cup	Hunters Hill vs Drummoyne	11:05	Fixture	Zac Martin	Toby Brandon-Cooper	Charles Mulcahy	
	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 2nd Grade - Burkes Cup	Hunters Hill vs Waverley	12:20	Fixture	Thomas Hughes	Harry Pepper	Emmett Karstrom	
	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 2nd Grade - Burkes Cup	Hunters Hill vs Waverley	13:45	Fixture	Ella Goldsmith	Tom McLean	Alexander Buckland	
	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 1st Division 2nd Grade - Burkes Cup	Hunters Hill vs Waverley	15:15	Fixture	Louis Trisley	Tom Chadwick	Ella Goldsmith	
Eric Tweeddale Stadium (Field 1)	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th Division 2nd Grade - Grose Cup	Merrylands vs Rockdale	13:20	Fixture	Sandy Roberts	Glen Paterson	John Coleman	
	NSW Suburban Rugby Union	NSW Suburban Rugby - 4th Division 1st Grade - McLean Cup	Sydney Irish vs Merrylands	15:00	Fixture	Nathan Shute	Paul Worsley	Jackson Brislan	
Leichhardt Oval	Sydney Rugby Union	Sydney Rugby Union - 4th Grade Premiership - Henderson Cup	Randwick vs Manly	09:15	Fixture	Todd Cummings	Jack Larkin		
	Sydney Rugby Union	Sydney Rugby Union - 3rd Grade Premiership - Henderson Shield	Randwick vs Eastwood	11:20	Fixture				

# NSWRRA APPOINTMENTS

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

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, 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 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, 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	NSWRU, SNRR, SWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	NSWRRA	Home School	NSWRU, NSWRRA
MINIMUM MO REQUIREMENT		Smart Rugby Referee Ready	Assoc'n Member Smart Rugby Referee Ready	Assoc'n Member Smart Rugby Lvl 1 Match Official Season Ready	Assoc'n Member Smart Rugby Referee Ready Season Ready	Assoc'n Member Smart Rugby Referee Ready Season Ready	Assoc'n Member Smart Rugby Lvl 1 Match Official 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 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

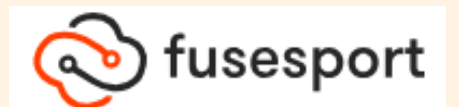
Fortunately, rugby has a good culture and crowds are generally well behaved. However, that is not always the case and everyone in the rugby world wants to stamp out negative behaviours.

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
	Senior Finals - Ref/AR	\$25
SJRU - Junior Fixtures	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 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.

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 NSWRRRA.

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.



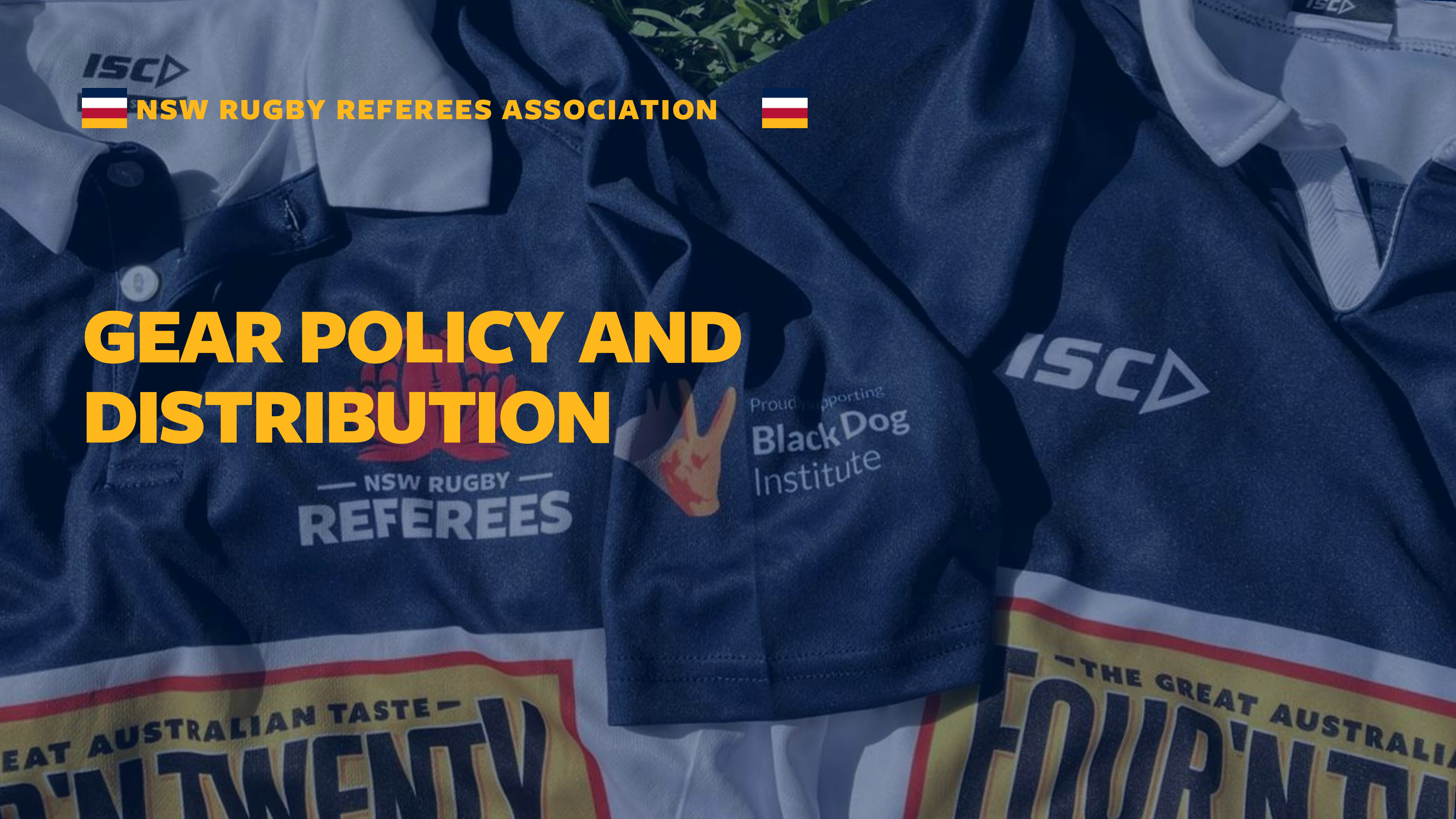




NSW RUGBY REFEREES ASSOCIATION



# GEAR POLICY AND DISTRIBUTION





# 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

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

# NSWRRA GEAR DISTRIBUTION

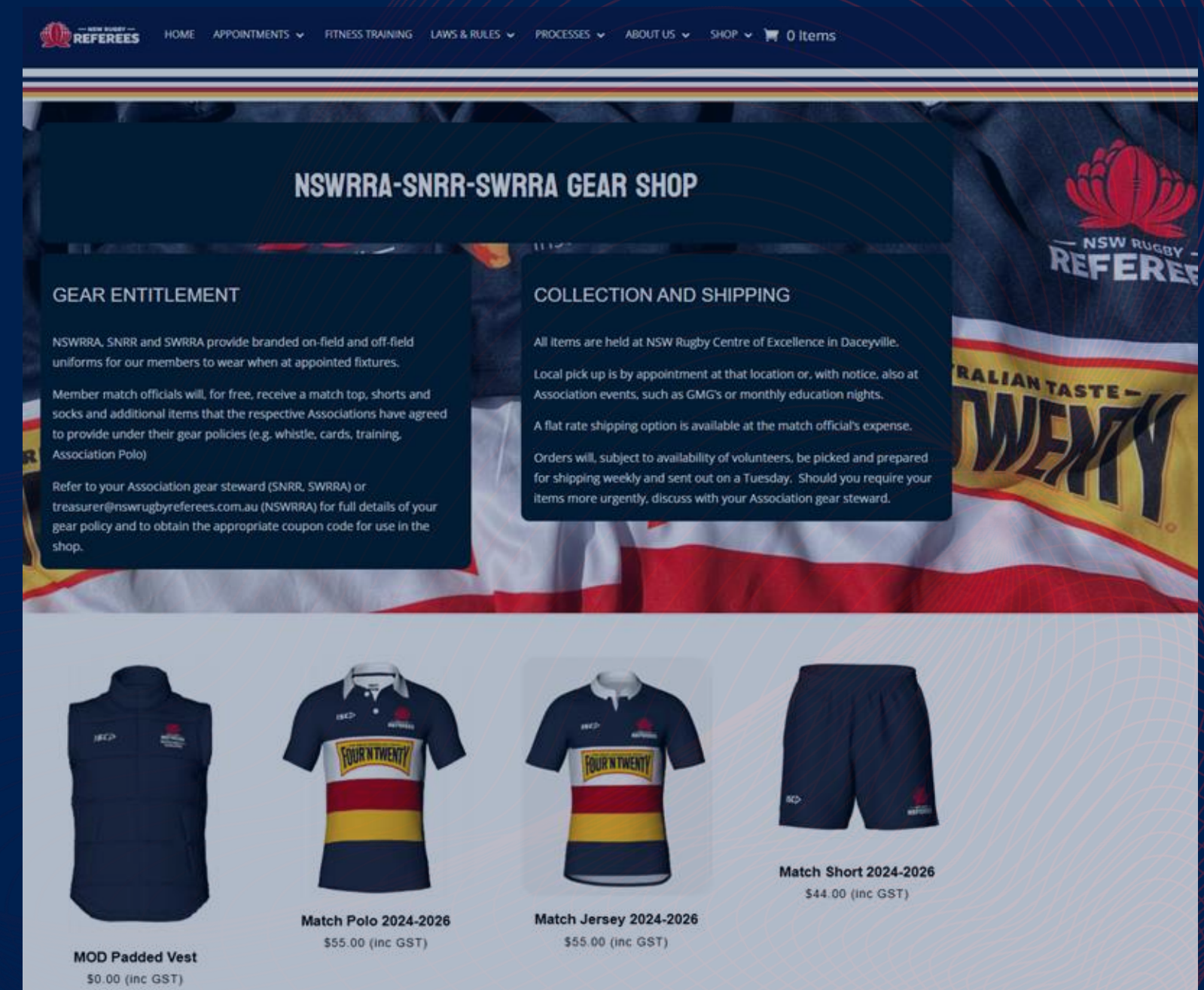
NSWRRA manages the ordering and replacement of gear through our online shop. The following pages set out our gear policy and entitlements.

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](http://www.nswrugbyreferees.com.au/shop)





# 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple appointments in a day</li><li>• Multiple appointments in a weekend</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• damage</li><li>• fair, wear and tear from NSWRRRA activities (considered unlikely before 50 fixtures)</li><li>• junior members outgrowing</li></ul>
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"><li>• damage</li><li>• fair, wear and tear from NSWRRRA activities (considered unlikely before 50 fixtures)</li><li>• junior members outgrowing</li></ul>
Match Short				
2XS-4XL, F8-F22				
		1x (ONE)  annually	Case by case approval by Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• damage</li><li>• fair, wear and tear from NSWRRRA activities</li><li>• junior members outgrowing</li></ul>
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
		1x (ONE)  Until redesign or replacement exception met	Case by case approval by Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• damage</li><li>• fair, wear and tear from Association activities</li><li>• junior members outgrowing</li></ul>
Association Polo				
2XS-4XL, F8-F22				
 		1x (ONE)  <b>EITHER</b>  Sport Jacket + Track Pants  <b>OR</b>  Rain Jacket  Until redesign or replacement exception met	Case by case approval by Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• damage</li><li>• fair, wear and tear from Association activities</li><li>• junior members outgrowing</li></ul>
Sport Jacket	Track Pants			
2XS-4XL, F8-F22	2XS-4XL, F8-F22			
		Associations may apply a minimum game thresholds prior to distribution		
Rain Jacket				
2-7, 8-11, 12-14				



# NSWRRA - NEW MEMBER REFEREE



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

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



Principal Partner of NSW Rugby Referees

OTHER KIT - 2026	MEMBER ENTITLEMENT
	1x provided for attendance at NSWRRR 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 Kooka.





# 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 and record audio with RugbyTV.

All Shute Shield, Prem Colts 1, Kentwell and Barraclough Cup games are covered with by NSWRRRA 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](mailto:refops@nswrugbyreferees.com.au).

## EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS – COMMS EQUIPMENT

- If NSWRRRA 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.



# COMMUNITYY COMMS KITS

## Best Settings

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



## RefPro Trouble shooting

- 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 (o1 and o2) 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 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.

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](mailto:refops@nswrugbyreferees.com.au)



**Ref Review**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 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 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  TURRUWUL PARK, ROSEBERRY (from 2 Feb)	6.30pm	12 Jan – 26 Jan  From 2 Feb	Performance MOs	Performance MO benchmarks
WEDNESDAY SESSIONS				
SHORE SPORTS GROUNDS, NORTHBRIDGE	6.30pm	12 Nov - 17 Dec	Endurance	2.4km TT - 18 Dec
		7 Jan - 11 Feb	Speed	40m TT Speed Gates - 11 Feb
		18 Feb - 18 Mar	Agility, Speed, Endurance	Bronco 1 - 18 Mar
		25 Mar	All round + strength	
BORONIA PARK #2, HUNTERS HILL	6:30pm	1 Apr - 13 May	All round + strength	
		20 May - 15 July	Agility, Speed, Endurance	Bronco 2 - 8 Jul
		22 July - 2 Sept	Maintenance, Taper	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

## SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

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 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 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**





# NSWRRRA 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.**

**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.

**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.

**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
Stuart Dickinson	Executive, President	president@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0414 780 750
Alex Richards	Executive, Secretary	secretary@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0449 907 538
Paul Worsley	Executive, Treasurer, Commercial	treasurer@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0415 508 336
Ian Mooney	Executive, General Member	generalmember@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0416 258 986
Caitlin Winslade	Executive, General Member	generalmember2@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0414 995 301
Julius Ambat	DAC Chairman	DAC@nswrugbyreferee.com.au	
Divan Uys	NSWRRA Match Official Development Officer	Divan.uys@nsw.rugby	0450 684 480
Kim Taufu	Appointments Officer - Seniors	Kim.taufa@nsw.rugby	0477 088 008
Jack Jones	Appointments & Development Officer - Juniors	Jack.jones@nsw.rugby	0428 260 887
Max Hearn-Sarchfield	Match Official Welfare Sub-committee	refwelfare@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	
Tom Jordan	Events Sub-committee	eventsl@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0452 040 913
Caitlin Winslade	Social Media and Events Sub-committee	social@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0414 995 301
Peter Grattan	Referee Operations	refops@nswrugbyreferees.com.au	0408 221 751