



UPCOMING EVENTS

The 'R' Factor is Back!

Happy new year to all our Members, referees, football fans and readers alike! The 2018 year brings with it a lot of excitement about the footballing season ahead with plenty of matches to be played in Northern NSW competitions.

NNSW State League Referees continue to transition into a new age with many of the functions performed by this Association taken on by Northern NSW Football, and the dedicated referees department led by Brad Carlin. We will still be looking after all of you though, with our Committee providing welfare, advocacy and social benefits for all our members.

We have been meeting with, and will continue to work with, the NNSW Football Referees Department and Operations Team to ensure that the transition of roles goes smoothly, and that the results are in the best interests of all referees.

Look out for announcements in regards to the Welfare Team and Referees

Advisory Group which will be made in coming weeks.

Training has started back up each Monday and Wednesday night, led by Trainers Brad Peterkin and Aaron Strickland. For those who have missed the Hill Run there will be plenty of opportunities to run it before the season starts.

Finally, this edition would not be complete without paying tribute to The 'R' Factor's previous author, Life Member Brian Tamsett. Brian created The 'R' Factor in 2006 as Association Branch Coach and compiled 122 editions until February 2017. The Association cannot thank Brian enough for his contributions over the years.

Remember to register online for the upcoming preseason fitness tests

Yours in football,

CB

March 2018

- 1st – Fitness Test: register online [here](#)
- 2nd – An evening with an A-League Referee. 6pm @ LMRFF. Register online [here](#)
- 3rd – Commencement of NPL Youth competition
- 5th – NPL Senior Coaching Night; 6pm @ LMRFF
Fitness test: register online [here](#)
- 10th – Last Preseason fitness test: register online [here](#).
- 11th – Commencement of Herald WPL Competition
- 12th – Youth Referee Coaching; 6pm @ LMRFF
- 14th – Hill run, 6pm @ Jesmond Park
- 17th – Commencement of NNSW PS4 Senior Competition, and New FM Northern League One
- 21st – BBQ after training, Jesmond Park
- 26th – Youth Referee Coaching; 6pm @ LMRFF
- 28th – Hill run, 6pm @ Jesmond Park

April 2018

- 7th – Commencement of the Interdistrict Zone League competitions
- 9th – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF
- 9th – NPL Senior Coaching, 6pm @ Club Macquarie
- 23rd – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF
- 30th – Zone League Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

Social Committee Activities

The Social Committee is planning a number of activities for Members across the season; keep your ear out for announcements on:

- Social BBQ's
- Golf Day
- A-League Grand Final Event
- Presentation Night

Our first social event will be our unofficial season launch **BBQ after training on Wednesday, 21st March.**

If you want a say in the social activities of the Association, please get in contact with the Social Committee : Murray Ross, Jack Stoker, Rhy Fisher, Will Berry, and Glen Peterkin



Where's Ryan?



Two months down and our lone FIFA official has been spending more time in luxury airline lounges than at home! Ryan has recently travelled to Uzbekistan for the Asian Champions League, and Singapore to officiate on the AFC Cup. He'll then be jetting home to officiate on the top of the table clash this Saturday between Newcastle Jets and Sydney FC.



60 seconds with.... Andrew Digby

What is the highest level game you have refereed?:

The Over 50 Bronze Medal game at the 2016 Masters Games

If you were stuck on a desert island, what three things would you take?:

A boat to bring me home; a phone to call for help; and sunscreen so I don't get burnt

Have you ever had an encounter with a celebrity?

I once played tennis with Kamahl, and went pig chasing with Les and Noel Cleal. (for those who don't know who Kamahl is, this is for your musical education: https://youtu.be/kdZ_SnJtb8o)

Who is the most annoying person at training?

BP; you shouldn't make people do things you can't do yourself

Least favourite training exercise:

Burpees

What advice do you have for young referees aspiring to have a good first grade career?

Make sure you are having fun while doing it

What is your pre-game ritual?:

Socks first.



How well do you know the Laws of the Game?

The 2016/17 season saw the largest number of Law Changes since the formation of IFAB. In 2018, IFAB have continued their revision of the Laws of the Game to tidy up the loose ends and provide clarification on any grey areas generated.

IFAB have provided this summary of changes for the upcoming season: [Law and Practical Guideline changes](#)

One of the biggest changes to the game in 2017 was the elimination of the “triple punishment” whereby a player would be sent off, concede a penalty and face suspension for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a free kick. IFAB have taken it one step further by lowering the sanction for stopping a promising attack within the penalty area.

Take particular note of these sections within Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct:

“There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour including if a player:

- ❖ *commits a foul which interferes with or stops a promising attack except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball*
- ❖ *denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick”*

These decisions, knowing when or when not to caution, can have a big impact on the game. It might be best to study up before your next game!

From the grounds... Trial matches

The season hasn't yet begun officially but plenty of trial matches are being played each weekend before the real deal kicks off. But how often have you heard the phrase “It's only a trial game”? We tend to be less strict in terms of regulations during this period, but where is that we as officials draw the line?

Some referees have negotiated with Clubs to relax the laws around players equipment (we all know some players still don't have the right tape by finals time!), but we need to make sure that we still apply the Laws of the Game to ensure that all players, spectators and officials are protected.

It's also important to get the players (and officials) back into good habits: kick off on time, have a team sheet prepared, get players to remove all jewellery from their person. Also remind them it's not going to be the same in a few weeks, and that compression shorts and tape will have to be the correct colour as per the Laws.

Contributions

Got anything to contribute? Some funny moments between you and an assistant? Or maybe a part of the Laws you aren't sure about? Send them through to our Association email: secretary@northernswstateleaguerefs.com.au or shoot us a message on [Facebook](#)