



UPCOMING EVENTS

## The real football has begun

That's right, the mighty Zone Leagues are back!

Goals galore, plenty of cards (even a few to coaches!), and the weather has been perfect. Can't get better than that.

This month, President Neil Jones and I attended the first Premier and Zone League Competition Referee Advisory Group meeting conducted by NNSW Football. Other members of this Group include: Brett Griffiths, Alison Macready, Jack Fisher, Kevin Elliot, Brad Carlin and Jake Southward.

The Group will meet to discuss a range of topics including welfare issues, referee development, retention strategies, and disciplinary issues relating to referees.

It is worth noting that the Group will not have any disciplinary powers, but

may pass on matters to the Competition regulator in relation to breaches of the National and Competition Code of Conduct.

In other news, congratulations to Alison Macready and Gerrod Murphy on making their NPL First Grade debuts! The recent 'baby boom' has meant there is a need for referees to step up to the next level, and the Association is looking forward to seeing a number of referees develop into higher grades across the rest of the season.

There are a number of coaching nights and practical skills nights coming up in the next two months; if you want to get the best out of your season you should definitely make sure you get to these sessions!

Keep on reffin'

CB

### May 2018

7<sup>th</sup> – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

Register [here](#)

7<sup>th</sup> – Senior Referee Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

14<sup>th</sup> – Skills Night, 6pm @ Jesmond Park

21<sup>st</sup> – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

Register [here](#)

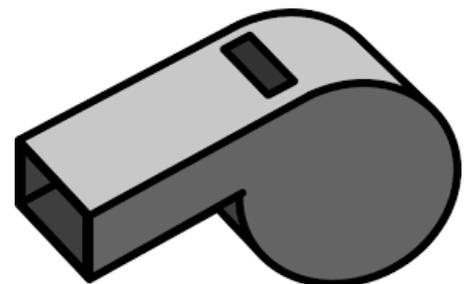
### June 2018

4<sup>th</sup> – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

4<sup>th</sup> – Senior Referee Coaching, 6pm @ Club Mac

18<sup>th</sup> – Youth Refereeing Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

25<sup>th</sup> – Skills Night, 6pm @ Jesmond Park



## Social Committee Activities

The A-League Grand Final is coming to Newcastle! The Social Committee is planning a pre-match get-together at the General Roberts Hotel, New Lambton

Come down at 6pm for a catch up with your fellow referees before the big game

**Did you know?** NNSW SLFR have finally reached the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and are now active on Facebook AND Instagram. Give us a like or send us some snaps of you out on the park!



## 60 seconds with... Stu Hansen

*What many years have you been refereeing, and what got you into refereeing?:*

This is my 5th year refereeing and I started for the extra pocket money!

*What grade of football are you currently refereeing or hoping to referee this season?:*

NewFM 23s and had my first NPL 20s last week

*Who is your refereeing hero?*

Pierluigi Collina

*Do you have a pre-game ritual?*

No, but maybe I should!

*Who is the most annoying person at training and why?*

Ryan Gallagher – I can never beat him

*How many pens do you carry onto the field?*

One, any more and I'll drop them

*Where do you keep your yellow and red cards?*

Yellow in the right pants pocket, red in the left. Makes it easy to show both at once.

*Who are your favourite assistants to work with of a weekend?*

Watching Jack McLeod trying to sprint down the line is always entertaining and there's never a dull moment with Gerrod Murphy on the line.

*What's your piece of advice for anyone wanting to take up refereeing?*

Challenge yourself and have fun with it!



### How important do you think positioning is?

A lot of decision making as a referee develops into instinct, and fouls become easily identifiable. But that's only if you see the incident!

The aim for a referee should be to be within close proximity of play, and maintain an optimal line of sight at all times to make the right call. To achieve this, you must be fit and be able to anticipate the play of the game.

Referees should work on a flexible diagonal from one corner of the field to the other, opposite to the Assistant Referees. By maintaining a 'left angle', you should see the play and have your Assistant Referee in sight.



Be close to play, but not so close that you interfere with play, get in players' way and reduce their tactical and passing options. Closeness will assist your management by heightening your presence, helping to 'sell' your decisions, sharpening your anticipation, and enhancing your preventative actions through rapid intervention.

A key skill in regards to positioning is the use of anticipation. The referee must look for the target ahead of play or the target zone. The key here is player with the ball; where are they looking?

- ❖ **Where** is play going?
- ❖ **Where** can I go to get the best view?
- ❖ **Go** there!

Good anticipation provides referees with more time to select the best viewing option. Not anticipating play means that referees have to chase the play, often at a fast pace.

Not convinced? Check out this incident from the 1998 FIFA World Cup. The referee certainly had the best position to see the incident.

[1998 FIFA World Cup controversy](#)

## Where's Ryan?

A month at home for Ryan, and he's been catching up on some local NPL fixtures. He clearly hasn't been practicing for Smudge's Challenge, check out this poor attempt to juggle the ball (We do NOT recommend doing this on your game, keep it professional everyone)

### [NPL Adamstown vs Broadmeadow - bloopers](#)

Next month Ryan heads to South Korea as they take on Bosnia Herzegovina in a farewell match before the FIFA World Cup in Russia.

## NNSW SLFR Association Membership

A reminder that Membership fees are now due.

If you are not currently a member and want to sign up, please contact the Treasurer Glen Peterkin via email: [treasurer@northernnswstateleaguerefs.com.au](mailto:treasurer@northernnswstateleaguerefs.com.au)

## Feature Article - The Journey So Far *by Ellie Hayes*

I started refereeing when I was 15 years old in Coffs Harbour and became a member of State League 6 years ago when I moved to Newcastle to study Physiotherapy at Newcastle Uni. Over the years I have been involved in a number of refereeing development opportunities in Australia, including State and National Championships. More recently I have been on the Assistant Referee panel for the Westfield W League for the past six seasons, where I have had the opportunity to officiate on three semi-finals in that time. I am also currently part of the AFC Project Future Referees Development Program. The path to this program started two years ago, in 2016, when I was nominated to attend an U14 Female Festivals of Football tournament in Vientiane, Laos. This course was run over two weeks, involving a group of approximately 14 female referees from across Asia and two AFC instructors. The first week was a combination of presentations on the LOTG, written and multiple-choice LOTG exams, English competency exams, as well as practical sessions and a fitness test. During the second week we officiated the five-day tournament, with debriefing and feedbacks sessions afterwards.

There were a number of other Festivals of Football held in other countries in 2016, and from these participants were nominated to be involved in the first course for the AFC Project Future batch 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in April 2017. There were 21 participants in total, 13 male and 8 female. This was a six-day course where we spent four days in the classroom learning from AFC instructors, participating in group activities, completing LOTG exams, practical training sessions and a fitness test. We also spent time developing short, medium and long term goals for refereeing to help target our development. Two of the course days were spent officiating an U16 male tournament. Each participant only had one opportunity to referee, so it was important to perform at our best despite the challenging ground conditions and extremely hot, humid weather. Each match was recorded and of an evening time was spent as a group debriefing about each game and finding development points in our performances that we could improve upon.





Continuing with the Project Future program depends on factors such as physical fitness, match performance, technical knowledge, as well as characteristics such as personality and attitude. After each course some referees will continue onto the next course, however some do not. Outside of the courses, participants are also expected to complete self-evaluations on all officiating, as well as forward assessor reports to the AFC referees department.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to the recent second Project Future course for our batch in Fukuoka, Japan in March 2018. From the 21 participants at the first course, only 13 continued onto the six-day second course, held at the Global Arena. This course was based around the four day SANIX Cup for U17 males. The teams for this tournament comprised of top-level high school teams from across Japan, as well as international teams from Malaysia, Russia, South Korea and Taiwan. There were group stages over the first two days and then a knockout finals series. The level of football for this tournament was very high and fast paced. It was definitely a test of our concentration and fitness. Most games were recorded and we completed debriefing sessions of an evening after dinner, with the goal to again identify development points in our performances and implement these in our matches the following day. Although most of our time in Japan was spent preparing for and officiating at the SANIX Cup, we did have one free day where we spent time in Hakata City, experiencing the Japanese subway, the endless streets, both above and below ground, of shops, and the Cherry Blossom light display in front of Hakata Train Station.

In the past week I have received feedback from the course in Japan and was informed that I will be invited to the final course in Malaysia later this year. This, combined with re-selection for the National panels occurring in the next couple of months and officiating locally, means there's not much down-time this year!

I have gained invaluable experience from these opportunities. They have helped me immensely with officiating both as a referee and assistant referee. Aside from refereeing, being part of Project Future has allowed me to experience different countries, people and cultures that I may not have experienced otherwise. I have made friends from many other countries, including Japan, India, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, the Philippines and South Korea, and having the opportunity to not only referee with these people but also learn from them has been an amazing experience.

## Member Achievements!

**Stephen Laurie**, as part of the Senior NTP squad, has been officiating in Sydney and Melbourne. Stephen officiated on the Dandenong City vs Nunawading City FC in the Victorian NPL, and then refereed the match between Blacktown Spartans and Hakoah Sydney City East last week.

**Alison Macready** and **Gerrod Murphy** have made their first grade debuts in the Northern NSW NPL.

Off the park:

- Another baby! Congratulations to Lis and **Aaron Strickland** on the arrival of Harrison Joseph Strickland
- Life Member **Kirralee 'KJ' Andruschak** and husband Tom also welcomed Mackenzie Lola into their family
- **Callan Stammer** graduated from the University of Newcastle after completing his double degree

