

Ryde-Eastwood Hawks Touch Football

Referee's Annual Report

2022/2023

The 2022/23 year has been one of 'stabilisation'. Another words, the number of referees has remained pretty static, with some deciding to either retire or leave due to other commitments, or junior refs that have either university and work responsibilities. We have had a number of young starting refs join the ranks.

We have continued to provide formal training to those who wish to progress with their certification within our development program.

The goal is to obviously reduce the requirement of teams needing to provide duty refs for the competition. Last year we allocated the bye teams the responsibility of providing a couple of refs, but due to the lack of commitment the Board decided to request teams that played to ref a game either before or after their teams' game. Unfortunately, that did not really resolve the issue, with a number of teams providing pretty 'weak excuses' as to why they could not.

We will review this again, and may need to look at penalties for non-compliance.

On the representative level, the impact and effort provided by our Representative Referee Coordinator Patrick Branley has been enormous. A big thank you to Patrick who also provided the following information:

Vawdon Cup – we managed to provide sufficient referees (albeit with some assistance from Norths) so that all teams that nominated were able to compete.

SSC – we were only 1 short on referees and were supplied a QLD referee from NSW touch. Bill Calleja being appointed a semi-final and Pat Branley a quarter final.

Unfortunately, Pat missed out on an upgrade to level 4 in the opens division and is moving to the senior division for 2023.

JSC – We managed to fill our quota for referees in Gala Days and JSC. However, while having approximately 12 referees across galas and JSC, 43 of the 90 games refereed across the summer from 2 refs - Bill Calleja (19) and Pat Branley (24) games. Depth in our representative referee ranks still remains an issue. A consideration should be made to 'duty' refs for each Rep team to cover gala days at a minimum.

Continuing our partnership with Holy Cross College - Pat Batiste and Pat Branley ran a level 1 referee course at the school and we have obtained some talented young refs at our Monday night comp as a result being JK and Brandon.

At a rep level - congrats to Pat Branley being selected for Sydney Scorpions in Jnr Regionals in 2023 and being appointed to a semi-final at that tournament.

Finally, I believe that there has been a reduction in the number of incidents of referee abuse from players, but we have actually experienced more abuse from sideline spectators (parents/friends). We will instruct our referees to be better equipped in handling these incidents – through reporting to management and implementing sanctions where required.

We will continue to reinforce the zero-tolerance policy for referee abuse at the next managers meeting, and ensure this message is filtered through to all players.

I would like to thank the Board for their ongoing support of the referees, and Bill and Pat for their invaluable input and assistance over the year.