



ACT Rugby Referees Association

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the ACTRRA Newsletter for July 2023.

Recently we saw all our senior referees wearing the NAIDOC jerseys – see design below. Kevin Cullen, one of our referees and sponsors (WAIDT Services Australia) approached the Executive with the idea of our referees wearing a jersey to improve our cultural awareness of the indigenous peoples in our region. This was wholeheartedly endorsed by the Executive and work commenced to bring this to fruition. Kevin invited Lynnice Church, through consultation with the Nggunawal community, to work on a suitable design with the theme “Tell the Story”.



The artwork symbolises the importance of building strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities through listening, learning, and sharing. This is the foundation that provides opportunities to develop shared understanding and respect. When we are genuine in our engagement, intentions, and actions we open doors to many possibilities and inclusivity. The artwork signifies the important role of our Elders in guiding us with their cultural knowledge and wisdom and our non-Indigenous brothers and sisters who walk along side of us in the spirit of reconciliation.

David Fryer, a former referee coach and mentor, sadly passed away and several of our members were able to attend his funeral at the RMC Anglican Chapel to represent the Association on your behalf. The ACTRRA Coaches Award bears his name as a tribute to his services to the Association and rugby union refereeing development across all ages. This award is presented annually to the best referee coach as voted on by the Association members. Last year David was able to personally present this Award to James Willemsen at our Award ceremony.

Save the date Presentation afternoon 10 September 2023 at the RUC (11:00-12:00noon – barefoot bowls, 12 noon – 3:00 Lunch and Presentation ceremony)

What’s happening in your Association?

- Development Meeting THEME: LEAD INTO THE FINALS 1 August 2023 BRUMBIES HQ 7:30pm
- Coaches meeting 24 July 2023
- Levels 1 & II Coaching courses **rescheduled** for 29-30 July at Brumbies HQ
- This course is for those interested in;
 - developing their refereeing ability by becoming more aware how to review their own performance and targeting ways to improve.
 - becoming a referee coach at the junior or senior level.

If you may be interested in attending these rescheduled courses, please contact Jack Cunningham on actrra.coaching@gmail.com ASAP and register on Rugby Xplorer

- Training: Junior Tuesday 4:15pm Griffith oval
Fitness Tues and Thursday 6:00pm all levels encouraged to attend BRUMBIES.

Carnivals

- Australian U/18 Australia v New Zealand 27 September 2023 Viking Park ACT
- Australian U/18 Australia v New Zealand 2 October 2023 Viking Park ACT

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- Australian Rugby Shield 27-29 September 2023 Ballymore QLD
- U/18 Academy games 19 Sept 2023
- U16s and U19s 30th September 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st October 2023
- Canberra Owls Sevens Carnival 17th September 2023
- Brumbies Gala Days 2 Aug High School & College 7s finals Boys
- Brumbies Gala day 16 Aug High School & College 7s final Girls

Kit

The women's jerseys, ACTRRA Association caps and NAIDOC jerseys have arrived. If you are a Level 1 or above and have not yet received these items, please contact Ivan Gavazov (actrra.asstsec@gmail.com) to arrange collection. The NAIDOC jersey may be worn as our alternate strip for the duration of our current uniform.

Member profile: Ethan Gumbrell – referee

Ethan recently completed his Year 12 Certificate at Daramalan College. He started his association with rugby union as a player in the under 12's. In 2018 he decided to give refereeing a go and commenced refereeing the under 8s, 9s & 10's and running the line for as many games as possible. While not having a driver's licence, his mum (the Brumbies Women's Club doctor) provides the necessary transport around Canberra when distance prohibited Ethan from getting on his trusty bicycle and setting off to parts unknown to referee. Ethan has achieved his Level 1 referees' certificate and he was one of our scholarship referees in 2022. He has also been appointed to referee a number of junior grand finals in the Under 11's, 12's, 13's and 14's age groups. Since 2019 he also acted as a No4 at Under 16, 18 & 19 national junior rugby championships. This year he was selected to travel to Melbourne as part of the ACTRRA exchange program where he received glowing reports from the Melbourne coaching group. In addition to this Ethan has joined the senior referee ranks and is regularly being appointed to referee 4th grade (1st Grade Div 2nd) and Assistant Referee duties each weekend. Next month Ethan starts his academic journey enrolling in the Certificate III in Fitness at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

When asked what his refereeing aspirations were for the future, he simply replied, "To be the best I can be."

From the Chairman Coaching and Grading

- All referees are encouraged to continue completing Reflive.
- Ensure you have read through the GMGs (see the link below) on head contact and other foul play - we need to be more consistent in applying these. <https://d26phqdbpt0w91.cloudfront.net/NonVideo/549944b1-fbdf-4188-bcaf-ef571ff8c712.pdf>
- Thank you to all those who attended the Development night dealing with Communication and Reporting and Head contacts on the 4 July. The video of the proceedings from this Development night will be uploaded onto the ACTRRA website shortly.
- Regarding junior games (U19 and below) **NO ADVANTAGE** is to be played in matters of foul play.
- Trends: Tap kicks not been taken from the correct place and/or not been taken in accordance with the Laws of the game. Not insisting on east/ west roll away. Management of the Blue card process. Referees are engaging in conversations with the captains to enable their side to prepare for the next phase of play.
- Referees are asked to ensure all fields are appropriately roped off. ie ropes should be erected at least 5 metres from the side lines and dead ball lines.
- Finals time has arrived. Which means all your hard work throughout the season is coming to a climax. As in the past we will be endeavouring to appoint both referees and Assistant referees to all finals. Therefore, please continue to advise us of your unavailability as soon as possible.
Suburban: preliminaries - 22/7, grand final – 29/7
Monaro & Women's 10's: semis – 5/8, preliminaries – 12/8, grand finals – 19/8
1st, 2nd, Colts, 1st Div 1st grade, 1st Div 2nd grade, Women's 15s: semis - 12 & 13/8, preliminaries - 19/9, grand finals – 26/8
- Grading panels go to the following link: ACTRRA.org.au

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Southern States Championships

Thanks to all those referees, coaches and supporters who spent all or part of 11-14 July 2023 at Nicholls Enclosed for these Championships. Representative teams from Southern Inland, Tasmania, Northern Territory, South Australia, Illawarra, Brumbies Country, South Coast Monaro and Western Australia participated. A huge undertaking by all those involved. A special thanks to Ivan Gavazov, Anne Dickeson and Nathan Mass for coordinating the referees and ARs/touch judges and dealing with the game-to-game demands placed upon them by coaches, organisers, players, parents, referees both efficiently and effectively.

Quiz: What's your decision?

1. Attempt at a conversion. The ball is kicked and contacts the upright and is propelled into the field of play, a player from the non-kicking team kicks it over the cross bar before it hits the ground. Your decision?
2. From the kick off, the ball contacts a receiving team player's head, and it travels in the direction of the opposition's dead ball line. A player from the receiving team, standing in front of his teammate, picks the ball up and then runs down the field and grounds the ball under the post. Your decision?
3. It is the Red team's lineout feed and they put 5 players in the line. Blue team match numbers. The Red player is ready to throw the ball into the lineout. However, before the throw a Red team player, who is part of the lineout, leaves the line and takes a position 10 metres back from the line of touch. Your decision?
4. The Red team kicks the ball in general play into Blues 22 area where it is caught by a Blue team player who immediately runs and kicks the ball down the field from just inside his 22. The ball having crossed the plane of touch is caught by a Red team player standing on the halfway with his feet astride the sideline. Your decision?

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