



## ACT Rugby Referees Association

### PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE NEWSLETTER

June 2021

#### 1. Junior Co-ordinator

It was with great regret that I recently accepted the resignation of Peter Langford as Junior Co-ordinator. Peter's efforts over the last 18 months have been nothing short of stellar and his efforts in combination with those of Jack Cunningham have ensured that we have been able to field the maximum number of referees to appropriate grades week in and week out during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Within a very short time we were incredibly lucky to secure the services of Shane Hughes, a returning member of ACTRRA, as our new junior coordinator. Shane has quickly slotted in and is making his presence felt already. If you have any questions regarding junior appointments, please contact Shane Hughes via [actrra.juniors@gmail.com](mailto:actrra.juniors@gmail.com)

#### 2. Sponsors

We have been trialling a new set of communications kits in anticipation of replacing our 3 barely satisfactory sets that have been in use for the last few years. We are in negotiations with 2 of our sponsors to fund these sets at \$5000 each which in turn will allow us to move the current sets to other fixtures including U/18 games where it is hoped we can begin to train a new generation of AR's. This will prove to be most beneficial for the remaining minor round games but will also allow us to have 'wired-up' AR's for selected junior finals games.

#### 3. Game Administration

A few points to remember each week:

1. Remember to check the app with team managers before you leave the game. Managers should not sign off without the referee checking the score and that all cards have been recorded - YC, RC, BC
2. RC reports are to be completed on Rugby Xplorer. When writing your reports, your description must accurately reflect events and the applicable laws. We now have mechanism where the Referee Development Officer can check reports for accuracy before they are logged with Brumbies. If your report is found wanting, the RDO may contact you for clarification.
3. It is essential that all instances of Match Official Abuse are recorded. Without your reports there is no avenue to take the matter further. Many of you will be aware of the recent increase in publicity around MO abuse in other sports here in Canberra. If you don't like being abused - report it. *If you ignore it, you accept it and you encourage it.*
4. If you feel unhappy with any aspect of your game please contact the Referee Development Officer, Denis Hughes, [actrra.rdo@gmail.com](mailto:actrra.rdo@gmail.com) He can assist you with arrangements for field assessments, coaching, review your qualifications or generally assist you with career matters. He is happy to discuss your refereeing aspirations and help you on the path to improvement in your game.
5. If you feel you need support of a more general nature, a friendly ear on the end of the phone after a harrowing game or after an instance of abuse please contact Matt Huggins our Welfare Officer. All discussions are in confidence but are also an avenue for addressing serious issues. [actrra.welfare@gmail.com](mailto:actrra.welfare@gmail.com)
6. For weekly appointments, in the first instance please liaise with the senior coordinator, Jack Cunningham [actrra.seniors@gmail.com](mailto:actrra.seniors@gmail.com) or for juniors, with Shane Hughes on [actrra.juniors@gmail.com](mailto:actrra.juniors@gmail.com) Please do not make individual arrangements with teams or Brumbies as you may not be covered by Rugby Australia Insurance if you or a player suffers an injury.





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### 4. Development Night - 6pm, The RUC Turner - 12 July

It is planned to hold a Development night on Monday 12 July at 6pm at The RUC. Plans are to make this a live event although there will be a Zoom facility to allow Graham Cooper, our Rugby Australia Referee Officer to run the event from Western Australia. Attendees should note that Mondays are \$12 Steak specials for RUC members and if you get there a little earlier it is easy to join. We encourage you to do this to support one of our new ACTRRA sponsors.

There will be a short ACTRRA General Meeting after the development night.

At the time of writing, there is doubt in the community regarding the emergence of the Delta COVID strain. As such, there may be a need to convert the meeting to a purely Zoom meeting. The ACTRRA committee will endeavour to keep you posted as early as possible as circumstances might change.

### 5. Congratulations

Congratulations are due to members who have made notable milestones in the season to date:

1. Ben Reedy for his debut in Premier 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
2. Petrus Van Aswegen for his National Debut as a Super W referee and AR
3. Amy Kilmister for her debut as an AR for Super W
4. Mitch Egan for his debut [rain cancelled] in Premier 1<sup>st</sup> Grade.
5. Ex member Rhianna Burke for her SIRU 1<sup>st</sup> Grade debut and as an AR for Super W
6. Greg Corin for his award of the Australian Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list
7. James Charlton as a 2021 School Student Scholarship awardee
8. Hamish Innes as a 2021 School Student Scholarship awardee

Please remember to remain COVID-safe during all your rugby activities. Use the 'Check In CBR' or 'Service NSW' Apps and follow COVID Marshall instructions. Stay Safe.

Yours in Rugby  
Sam Whittle  
President, ACTRRA

