

THE PEA SHOOTER

The Newsletter of the South Sydney District Rugby League Referees Association



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Souths Referees increase their Graded representation



In recent years, we have become accustomed to the news that one or two of our talented referees have moved into the graded ranks. This time last year, we were applauding David Munro's grading.

This year is no exception with the New South Wales Rugby League deciding to grade Jason Higgins as a Touch Judge earlier in the season. We congratulate Jason on this achievement and wishes him all the best for his graded career. Also, David Sharpe has recently been offered a six week trial with the NSW Rugby League as a 'touchie' for both parties to decide if he's suited

to this role. We wish David good luck during this period and hope that he joins Jason. Both Jason and David have been prominent members of our Association in recent years as well as in the NSW Rugby League Junior Reps Development Squad.

Jason's grading takes the total number of graded referees from South Sydney to seven, joining Gavin Badger, Rod Lawrence, David Munro, Steve Nash, Adam Neale, Paul Simpkins and Andrew Zapantis. Andrew Bowden has been performing strongly this year in the NSW Rugby League Junior Reps Development Squad and will hopefully continue to make his mark there next year and be joined by other Souths Referees.

Our on-field success in recent years can be attributed largely to the Associations renewed enthusiasm for training. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Joe Griffiths for his determination to improve the fitness and skills level of all of our referees. He certainly laid a solid platform for those who took over from him after his retirement as Coach last year.

For our Junior Referees and particularly those who are just starting out, the top of the referee ranks might seem an impossible mountain to climb. Those who have reached the summit will tell you that in order to get there, you need to make the effort to learn and understand the laws of the game, be committed to your refereeing and develop a habit for training and improving your fitness. While pursuing a career as a referee might not be a goal at the moment, it's never too early to develop that habit for fitness.

All referees are strongly encouraged to come to training on Tuesday nights at Snape Oval, Kingsford. Training runs from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and is designed by Andrew Bowden and Scott Guthrie to accommodate all levels of referee. It also provides an opportunity for a bit of fun afterwards. Those who regularly attend will testify to improvements in their own fitness and agility.

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President's Report

How time flies - it seems like only yesterday that trials were beginning and now at the beginning of June, we are approaching the mid point of the season.

A highlight of the season thus far has been the standard of refereeing. I know this makes the job of appointing officials to representative games a difficult task. It is important to acknowledge the achievement of Matt Rossleigh, Taylor Deland Cleveland and Scott Dalby for their appointment to the 13's 14's & 15's Easts v St. George Development Squad games. Congratulations also go to the Scott Guthrie, Kevin Rafferty & Ken Buckland for officiating the Souths v Penrith A grade challenge.

An important ingredient in everyone's referee development is the regular Tuesday night training session at Snape Oval. I encourage all members to make the effort to attend as Andrew Bowden has developed a program of physical and practical activities that cater for referees of all grades and ages. The game of touch at the end of training is also a great way to share a laugh and show off your football talent (or in the case of David Field and myself a lack of).

The season to date has not been without challenge, especially with regard to our numbers. I want to recognise the many people, both Juniors and Seniors alike, who have gone the extra yard to ensure that every game from 6 Div 5 to A-grade has a referee. We understand the burden this requirement is having on members, and the Executive are looking at all avenues to increase our on-field numbers. It has been great to welcome back Shane, Neil, Alice and John in recent weeks to bolster our ranks.

Since our last meeting, the Executive have been working with the Junior League on our pay rates for this season. I am pleased to advise that the 2007 pay structure has now been agreed. In creating the structure a number of principles were used:

- Create incentive for referees to progress through the ranks;
- Differentiate A and A/Reserve grade;
- Higher grades includes a component for "coaching and mentoring" younger referees;
- Touch Judge fees set at 50% of referee rate.

Rates for 2006

Rates for 2007

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Line</u>
A	75	40	100	50
A/R	75	40	75	40
21	50	25	60	30
19	40	22	50	25
17	35	20	40	20
16	30	20	35	20
15	25	16	30	16
14	23	16	27	16
13	21	14	24	14
Mod League	17	12	19	12
Mini League	17	12	18	12

Around the ground...

We're pretty fortunate at the moment to have almost our full compliment of referees available for games on the weekends. Unfortunately, Rick Ford was recently involved in an accident, suffering injuries to his skull and pelvis. As a result, Rick will not be available for some time. We wish Rick a speedy recovery.

For those of you checking the Big League to see where Jason Higgins has been appointed, you can stop. Jason has been out of action for the past month after he broke his toe playing indoor soccer, the same game that claimed Josh Milston last year. And they say that League is dangerous. Jason is on the mend but extremely bored at home. We might get to see a bit more of Jason as a result.



Some of our Junior Referees in action at the pre-trial games at Rowland Park



Notices from the Secretary

'Friendly Games'

There has been a change in policy relating to 'friendly' matches. If a team cannot field a side with the required number of their own players, they may borrow players from their opposing side to make up the required numbers. In doing so, the match can go ahead and you may referee the fixture. However, the side who borrowed the players should understand that they cannot win the match regardless of the result.

If at any stage throughout any fixture, a team does not have the minimum number of required players due to injury or dismissal, the game must be abandoned immediately. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Mini/Mod League

Referees in Mini / Mod league should ensure coaches / trainers attend only to injured players on the playing field. Don't let these officials hang about on the field. You're in control of the game .. not them!! Advise ground staff if you feel officials are becoming too annoying and hold the game up until you feel happy that they are off the field etc.

Social Calendar

Sunday 10th June - Go Karting Challenge

Last chance to take part in the Go Karting Challenge. We will meet at Souths Juniors on the Sunday morning at 8.30am for the bus trip to Minto. The bus should return by 2.30pm. It promises to be a great day. Juniors are required to have their parents complete the indemnity and licence application form, so be sure to obtain one from David Field if you have not already done so. **It is important that you notify David** either by phone on 0411 612 536 or email at footyfieldrl@hotmail.com.

Thursday 5th July - Manhattan Superbowl, 549 Gardeners Road, Mascot.

Meet at Manhattan Superbowl, Mascot at 6.30pm. The cost will be \$25 (Pay on the night) and will include 3 games of Ten Pin Bowling, Hotdog and Soft Drink. It is very important that those planning to come RSVP so that we can secure our booking. We need to let Manhattan Superbowl know by 29th June so if you are intending to come, please notify David Field as for Go Karting above.

Upcoming Events

Tue 7th August – Mini & Mod League Grand Final Appointments Dinner at Maroubra Junction Hotel
Tue 4th September – International Grand Final Appointments Dinner at Maroubra Junction Hotel
Date & Venue TBA – Annual Presentation Night

SEE THE NRL GRAND FINAL WITH SOUTHS REFEREES

Sunday 30th September 2007, Telstra Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park.

Tickets Prices for Adults: \$60 - Concession*: \$38

Category 4 seating.

Limit 100 seats available on 1st come 1st served basis.
Available to Members, family and friends.

RSVP TO: David Sharpe by **19th JUNE 2007**
at davidmsharpe@hotmail.com or 0423 733 093
PAYMENT DUE: 1st July 2007



* Concessions are available to full pensioners (Aged, War, TPI, Invalid & Disability) and juniors 4 – 15 years only

The **PEA SHOOTER** will be published every month during the League Season to keep members informed about important matters. We would welcome contributions from members such as web links, reviews etc. Please send all contributions to David Field at footyfieldrl@hotmail.com by the end of each month. The **PEA SHOOTER** will be published the week prior to each general meeting and emailed to all on the email list and for those who don't have internet access a hardcopy will be available at each general meeting.



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