



2026

Referee
Match Day
Handbook



FMNC Referee Structure and Contacts

FMNC Operations Officer:

Gregg McDonald

Referee & Club Development

gregg@footballmidnorthcoast.com

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FMNC Referee Coach

Rodney Dobson

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Referee Assistant Coach

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Development Officer

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Premier League Assessor

Bob Klinker

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Northern Appointment Officer

Craig White

juniorappointments@gmail.com

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Other Contacts

NNSW Referee Manager – Brad Carlin

bcarlin@northernnstfootball.com.au

NSW Regional Referee Education Coordinator – Mark Carter

mcarter@northernnstfootball.com.au

FMNC Referee Payments – Brandon Wallace

admin@footballmidnorthcoast.com

Match Day Check List



- **Whistle** – Carry a spare
Fox 40 is the recommended Whistle for Referees
- **Watch** – Have a spare or wear two,
one should have stopwatch or countdown function
- **Notebook** – Record Goals, Red/Yellow Cards, Substitutes On/Off
- **Pen or Pencil** – at least two
- **Cards** – Set of Red/Yellow Cards. Be familiar with correct use
- **Coin** – Determine kick off and choice of ends
- **Flags** – Set of clearly visible flags is essential for every Match Official and Assistant Referees
- **Referee Uniform** – Correct Uniform as outlined
- **Preparation** – know what age groups and specific of game times etc
- **Ground Arrival** – No later than 15mins for Junior/ 30min Senior games
- **A Smile** – Enjoy what you are doing and be engaged in the game

Injury or Illness on Day of Appointment

If you are sick on the day of the match and are unable to fulfil your appointment/s PHONE your relevant FMNC Appointments Officer as soon as possible.

Manning/Great Lakes Area/ Hastings/Macleay Area – Gregg McDonald 0418 863 681
Hastings/Macleay Area – Craig White 0422 183 920

If you play a game and sustain an injury which prevents you from being able to fulfil your appointment(s);

1. Phone Gregg or Craig as soon as possible to inform FMNC of your injury and action. We encourage match officials who are players to take their gear with them, just in case you are asked to officiate before/after playing your game.
2. See if another qualified and suitable match official (even if they are there as a player) is at the ground and enquire if they are available to take your place? Suitable match officials are those that have officiated on that grade before.
3. If after this you are unable to find a suitable replacement, inform the Duty Officer of the home club that you are unable to fulfil your appointment/s and there is no replacement available.

Uniform Requirements

Standard of Dress & Uniform

- Your job starts from the moment you arrive at the ground to the moment you leave it, so it is important to look professional.
Match Officials should wear the following to and from the ground.
 - o Officials appointed to Zone League matches are encouraged to wear long dress pants and black shoes.
 - o Officials appointed on other Senior matches and on Junior competitive matches are encouraged to wear suitable shorts/warm pants and shoes.
- NO JEWELLERY (except watches) is permitted to be worn by match officials.
- Any Match Officials wearing skins/undergarments must adhere to the same guidelines issued to players in the FIFA Laws of the Game (i.e. wear the same colour undergarment as the predominant colour of the shorts and the same colour as the sleeve of the shirt).
- Ensure refereeing shirt and shorts are clean and, if necessary, ironed. Socks must be BLACK (not faded or otherwise) and clean. Keep them up!!
- Footwear MUST be predominately BLACK and should be clean.
- Only approved refereeing caps are to be worn.

Ensure –

- Watches are in good running order (carry a spare with you).
- Whistle/s are in good working order.
- Flags are clean (washed and ironed if necessary).
- You have a coin to toss before the match.
- You have REMOVED all your jewellery before officiating (except your watch).

Coloured Match Officials Shirts –

- If the Referee is wearing a coloured shirt (not black) BOTH Assistant's should wear the same colour as the Referee. If this is not possible, BOTH AR's MUST wear BLACK.

If the Referee is wearing a black shirt, then BOTH Assistant's MUST wear BLACK

If you have different coloured Referee shirts, you are encouraged to take to games as a contingency in case of colour clash

Game times within all Football Mid North Competitions

All Junior Games must start at schedule kick off time, if not split time into 2x equal halves

Mini Roos

U6's – U7's - U8's – U9's (size 3 ball)

20-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

U10's – U11's (size 4 ball)

25-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

Competitive Aged Competitions Juniors

U12's (size 4 ball)

25-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

U13's (size 4 ball) U14's (size 5 ball)

30-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

U15's & U16's (size 5 ball)

35-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

U17/18's & U18's Girls (size 5 ball)

40-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break

Competitive Senior Competitions (All size 5 balls)

Ladies, Men's & O35's,

40-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break

Zone League 2

40-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break

Unlimited interchange is permitted in Zone League 2 where up to a maximum of five interchange players per team per game is allowed.

Zone League 1

45-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break

Zone League 1 up to a maximum of five substitutions per team per game is allowed

Only the Zone League 1 competition that has stoppage time

Finals Series Procedures

For all FMNC Finals series matches.

In ALL Competitions, in the event of a draw at full time, a five (5) minute break will be taken then two ten (10) minute halves with no break will be played.

If the scores are still level after extra time, then a penalty shoot-out, conducted under FIFA rules, will take place to decide the winner.

Payments & Forms

All referee payments for games: U12-U18, Ladies, Men's, O35's, Premier League, PYLB/PYLG are processed and electronically transferred into referee's individual nominated bank accounts

Introduction to Duty Officer

It is a requirement that all match day officials introduce themselves to the host clubs 'Duty Officer' so that they know who to report to if there are any issues.

If no 'Duty Officer' is present, this needs to be advised to FMNC on the team sheet so that it can be followed up with hosting club.

Teamsheets, Reports & Information

- The Referee must complete the online team sheet after the match and enter the match score and any sanctions. The Referee will use his login to verify the result and yellow and red cards. No sign off by team Managers is required. A failure by the Match Official to comply with this rule shall subject the Referee to a Fine as determined annually by the Competition Administrator
- If you have sanctioned or dismissed a player, substitute or team official you must record this in the online match sheet 'offence details' of that participant and also **submit a online Send-off Report** for Red Card offences.
- As per Rule, team officials are now subject to yellow and red cards. If you have misconduct to report, you **MUST** submit an online **Incident Report** and also record details in the online teamsheet 'offence details' of that official and also Referee Report in the online teamsheet.
- All Send-off and Conduct Reports **MUST** be received by FMNC NO LATER than **24 hours** after the completion of the match. All reports to submit by email and the online portal. Reports that are received late may incur a fine by FMNC

Red and Yellow Cards

Yellow Card Offences

- **Y1** Unsporting behaviour
- **Y2** Dissent by word or action
- **Y3** Persist infringement of the Laws of the Game
- **Y4** Delaying the restart of play
- **Y5** Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- **Y6** Entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- **Y7** Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referees permission



Red Card Offences

- **R1** Serious foul play
- **R2** Violent conduct
- **R3** Spiting at an opponent or any other person
- **R4** Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (except a goalkeeper within their own penalty area)
- **R5** Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opponents' goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (unless otherwise outlined in the FIFA laws of the game)
- **R6** Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- **R7** Receiving a second caution in the same match



Penalty kick



Advantage (1)



Advantage (2)



Indirect free kick



Direct free kick



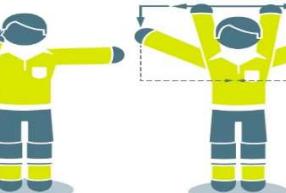
Corner kick



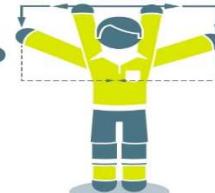
Goal kick



Red and yellow card



Check: finger to ear,
other hand/arm
extended



Review:
'TV signal'