

# Referee Fitness Training and Coaching Nights

## Referee Fitness Training

Our fitness training sessions to prepare for the 2026 season commenced at the Hunter Sports Centre facility, in Stockland Drive, Glendale, as from **Tuesday 20 January**. Initially, training is held every Tuesday and Thursday night between 6pm and 7pm. From late February onwards, training will revert to only being held on Thursdays.

For planning purposes, referees intending to attend training will need to register in advance for each session via a registration link to be sent to them by the NNSWF Referees Department.

For the information of our **youth referees**, including first year referees in 2026, attendance at our fitness training sessions is encouraged, but not mandatory. It is understood that many of our youth referees have schoolwork to do, and many are players in the NNSWF Premier Youth League Competitions for Girls and Boys and are already training several nights each week with their teams.

**Adult referees** who officiate on the NNSWF Premier Senior Competitions and the Zone Football League Competitions are expected to attend training regularly in 2026, especially during the period leading up to the commencement of competitions.

Attendance at training is one of the considerations when Premier Senior Competition and Zone Football League competition match allocations are prepared by the NNSWF Referees Department.

# Referee Coaching Nights

Below are the dates scheduled for our monthly coaching sessions in 2026 for our various groups of referees. The sessions are on Monday nights as it is rare for matches requiring referees to be played on this day of the week, and a smaller proportion of Premier Clubs train on Mondays than on other weekdays.

For planning purposes, referees intending to attend coaching will need to register in advance for each night via a registration link to be sent to them by the NNSWF Referees Department.

Unless otherwise announced beforehand, all sessions will be held in the Seminar Room in the Craig Johnston Building at the Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility, Speers Point, from 6:00pm to approximately 7:30pm.

**Premier Senior Referees Coaching Sessions** (for NPLM, NPLW, NL1, PYLB U18 referees)

- Monday 2 March
- Monday 30 March
- Monday 4 May
- Monday 1 June
- Monday 6 July
- Monday 10 August - compulsory for finals
- Monday 7 September
- Monday 12 October

In 2026, attendance at coaching sessions by the Premier Senior Referee Group again will be reflected in the allocations for Premier Senior Competition matches.

**Premier Youth Referees Coaching Sessions** (for PYLB, PYLG, JDL referees)

- Monday 23 February
- Monday 23 March
- Monday 27 April
- Monday 25 May
- Monday 29 June
- Monday 13 July
- Monday 24 August – compulsory for finals (or Tuesday 25 August)
- Tuesday 25 August – compulsory for finals (or Monday 24 August)
- Monday 28 September
- Monday 26 October
- Monday 16 November

Attendance at Premier Youth Referee Coaching Sessions is not compulsory, except in August, when attendance at one compulsory session is required for youth referees who wish to be considered for allocations to the 2026 finals series. However, receiving regular education is essential for young match officials to develop skills and confidence. Therefore, attendance at coaching sessions is highly recommended for Premier Youth Referees and will be taken into consideration during the allocation process.

Where possible, copies of the coaching presentations delivered at Premier Youth Referee Coaching Sessions will be distributed afterwards to all Premier Youth Referees so those who cannot attend can still receive important information and coaching.

**Zone Football League Referees Coaching Sessions** (for ZFL, ZCL referees)

- Monday 16 March
- Monday 20 April
- Monday 18 May
- Monday 22 June
- Monday 20 July
- Monday 17 August – compulsory for finals
- Monday 21 September
- Monday 19 October
- Monday 23 November

In 2026, attendance at coaching sessions by the Zone Football League Referees Group again will be reflected in the allocations for Zone Football League Competition matches.