

Last updated: 6 Jul 2017

Purpose: This policy is intended to inform the referees within NSWRRRA on the guidelines for how finals appointments will be made. The intent is that referees are appointed to finals based on current officiating form.

Ranking of referees:

The Management Committee meets on a monthly basis and reviews the Grading and relative ranking of Group A-D referees every month during the season. At least two weeks prior to the finals series commencing (i.e. before 29 July) the Management Committee will meet to confirm assignment of Referees in Groups A-D to finals series.

Two Grading Coordinators maintain ranking lists for referees in Group E-F (Ian Mooney) and G-H (John Goh). Referees in Groups below H are not ranked until such time as they are promoted into Group H. Grading Coordinators rely on the feedback they receive from other Referee Coaches to compile their ranking list.

There is no guarantee that referees will be selected for a finals series. Where the Management Committee or Referee Coach Panel do not select a referee above the ranking cut-off (i.e. the lowest ranked referee appointed to the finals series in that year) they will advise the referee ahead of announcing any teams of 3. Referees ranked below the cut-off for finals appointment will not be separately notified, but a list of all referees selected for a team of 3 will be issued.

Availability for finals series: All referees will be asked for their availability for appointment during the finals period (12-26 Aug 17 for Premier and 19 Aug – 9 Sep 17 for Subbies). Unavailability will be taken into account when forming teams of three. A referee will usually only be appointed to a finals series where they are available for all three weeks of their respective final series (including the grand final weekend).

Premier Finals Appointment process: In Premier there are 6 games in each final series, as follows:

- 1) Three qualifying finals,
- 2) Two semi-finals, and
- 3) One grand final.

The Shute Shield, Colin Caird Shield & Colts 1 finals will usually be appointed to from the A Grade referees panel and will not necessarily use the team of three approach.

For the remaining Premier Grades & Colts, there will normally be a team of three selected and all members of the team of three will get a qualifying final in Week 1. After Week 1, the Management Committee will normally employ 1 of 2 appointment models:

- 1) The two best performing referees from the qualifying finals will be appointed to the semi-finals and the best of those will be appointed to the grand final.
- 2) The #2 and #3 referees will be appointed to the semi-finals and the #1 referee will be appointed to the grand final.

Available members from Groups A-F should expect they will receive AR, #4 and #5 appointments during the Premier finals series.

Subbies Finals Appointment process: In general, referees will be appointed in teams of three, such that each referee will referee one of the major semi-final, minor semi-final and preliminary final matches

Other members of the team will be appointed to AR for each other wherever possible. The best performing referee from each team of three will be appointed to referee the grand final.

Any available member may be appointed as AR or #4 for the Subbies finals series. Referees in Groups A-H, who are not appointed to the Grade & Colts finals series will usually be appointed to the Subbies finals series. Referees in Groups I-M will generally only be appointed to AR and #4 appointments during the Subbies finals series. Referees in Group Z will generally not be used in the finals series.

Referee coach appointment process: Based on availability, geography and who they have been coaching during the year, referee coaches will be appointed to observe each finals series. In most cases, the Management Committee will delegate to the appointed referee coaches or the appointed head coach the responsibility to select referee to semi-finals or grand finals. Referee Coaches will also observe the performance of ARs during the finals series and make recommendations on AR appointments for the grand final. If after all referees have been seen the referee coaches believe that none of them are suitable to referee the grand final, they shall advise the Management Committee. The Management Committee may decide that a referee from outside the team of three shall be brought in.

Approval of Finals appointments: The Management Committee will provide the appropriate delegations to the Responsible Referee Coach/es at the respective finals series. In the event of a dispute, this would be referred to the Management Committee for resolution. If the Management Committee could not reach a consensus position, then the Committee would vote to finalise the appointments. All finals appointments are to be sent to the Referee Manager, the Referee Appointments Officer, the Management Committee and Ian Fraser for distribution to members. This should be completed on Sunday evening to enable appointments to be sent out on the Monday.

Feedback and reporting: One referee coach shall be designated to debrief the referee after their game. Referees and referee coaches are strongly encouraged to complete a GPR during the finals series.