



MWFRA NEWSLETTER

April/May 2018



Photo by Jeremy Denham

Mentoring

by Rebecca Mackie

Stepping onto the field as a referee for the first few matches can be an intimidating and nerve-racking experience, and it may take a while to get used to. However, it is perfectly normal to be nervous about doing something new.

In almost every new job, you will be trained and looked after by someone with experience who can also help you grow so that you can become more confident in your job and the duties that you perform. Refereeing is no different and the MWFRA strives to provide junior referees (especially first years) with the opportunity to grow through similar methods.

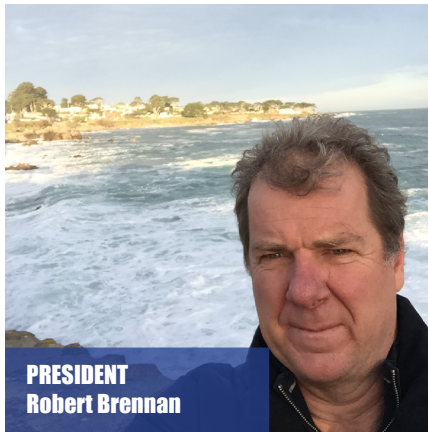
The MWFRA offers a mentoring program to all junior referees where experienced senior referees attend matches that junior referees are officiating and provide constructive feedback to that junior referee. Feedback is usually given in the form of strengths, areas needing improvement and plans to get there. No one is expected to know all the Laws straight away and some Laws can take longer to master, and these mentors are well aware of this, which is why most feedback is given in general terms. Some areas typically addressed include

arm signaling, whistle technique, fitness, general positioning, presence etc.

To this day, I am still quite anxious about being mentored especially when I know I miss a foul or am convinced that my mentor perceives a situation differently. However, I have understood the old saying “you learn from your mistakes” as the aim of the mentoring program is to help referees develop and better their skills while instilling confidence in junior referees. The MWFRA has some amazing mentors who have always provided a different view on situations or ways to manage them that have allowed me to develop as a referee.

This mentoring program is available to all junior referees, however the MWFRA prioritises first year referees. MWFRA will seek to appoint mentors to all first-year referees during their first season, so it is not necessary to request a mentor as it will be done for you. However, you may request a mentor and MWFRA will do their best to try and prioritise those referees who are a bit more nervous about doing their first few games. Parents and junior referees can email Chris Senior (Junior Vice-President) at vp_juniors@mwfra.org.au to request a mentor.

MWFRA committee 2018



PRESIDENT
Robert Brennan

Robert joined the MWFRA in 2005 as a team referee and has since gone on to complete his Level 3 Assessor in 2011 and Level 2 Referee (Theory) in 2016. Rob has also been actively involved in officiating, assessing and mentoring. He joined the committee in 2009 as the Junior VP and has held the presidency since 2011.



SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
Wayne Plant

After a playing career of 30 years in the MWFA area, Wayne realised that his body couldn't take it any more and wanted to give back to soccer so he became a full-time referee over 5 years ago. Wayne's main goal for every game is to not be talked about after the game and to shake hands with both teams.



JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT
Chris Senior

After joining the MWFRA because of her son, Chris has become one of the best 4th Officials on the Peninsula. As the JVP, Chris liaises with the junior members of the association. If you have any questions or issues, Chris is the best person to contact for juniors and always makes the time to talk.



SECRETARY
Richard Socratous

Richard commenced refereeing in 2015. Currently the holder of a Level 2 Theory qualification, Richard has accelerated through the referee ranks. In 2017, Richard enjoyed the challenge of officiating the AL1s. He hopes to obtain his full level 2 qualification in 2018. His goals for every game are to be consistent, provide clear communication, be an effective game manager and to earn the players respect.



ASSESSORS CONVENOR
David Le Ban

David started refereeing as he thinks most people do; by being a parent referee for his son's sub-junior team. David moved into the senior refereeing ranks about 8 years ago and was refereeing U21 and AL1R games. He is currently refereeing Premier League games but is also happy to referee whatever & wherever he is needed. While off the field, David keeps his fitness up by running and cycling (mainly cycling in the off season) and he tries to ride at least 100Km each week.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Josh Courts

Joining the MWFRA in 2011, Josh has officiated in the MWFRA Premier Leagues, FNSW Referee Development Pane, FNSW Referee Academy and NSW State League. His name is also etched on the trophies of the Assistant Referee, U21 and U18 Referee of the year. In 2018 he steps into the role as Assistant Secretary for the first time.



BRANCH COACH
Frank Maiuolo

Entering his 14th season as a referee within the MWFRA, Frank was flattered to be offered the role of Branch Coach. Frank has officiated local games of all levels as well as youth representative matches. Frank aims to encourage referees to feel empowered taking charge of games and have a firm grasp of the laws, to broaden match-day communication.



COURSE COORDINATOR
Ethan Ryan

Ethan started refereeing in 2010. Since then, he has officiated on the referee development panel and state league referees. In 2015, Ethan became a mentor and assessor. He is especially passionate about improving the standard of new MWFRA referees and ensuring they have a positive environment to learn, develop, and enjoy refereeing in.



FLOOR MEMBER
Jack Morales

Joining in 2010 alongside Ethan, Jack has officiated in the MWFRA Premier league, FNSW Referee Academy and NSW State league referees. He obtained his Level 2 Referee Theory in 2014, Level 1 Referee Theory in 2015 and Level 2 Assessor in 2016. This year, Jack hopes to become more involved in the administration side of things, rather than officiating.



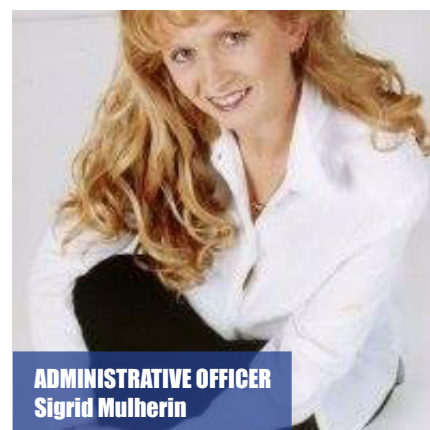
GEAR STEWARD
Trevor Croal

From semi-professional footballer (playing for Sydney Austrian Club Prague) to the local Premier League (Collaroy Plateau) to football referee (MWFRA), Trevor has done it all. He holds life membership for a number clubs and associations and has been the MWFRA Gear Steward since 2000.



REGISTRAR
Jonathon Taylor

Jonathon joined the MWFRA in 2016 and is currently a Level 3 referee. He thoroughly enjoys officiating all games, whether it be junior, senior or AL1s with MWFRA. Jonathon also officiates at many minifootball games, Sydney Schools games and is Vice Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee for World MiniFootball Federation. Apart from being Registrar for MWFRA, Jonathon is President of the Thailand MiniFootball Association.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Sigrid Mulherin

Although Sigrid is not a committee member, she is likely to be the person who you will be speaking to the most. Sigrid is the appointments officer for the MWFRA works at the MWFA Cromer office during the season from 9.30am-4.30pm each day but can be contacted about games outside these hours. Sigrid has done an outstanding job appointing referees to as many games as possible over the last few years, and we have seen a steady increase in the coverage of matches since Sigrid taken over the position.

Denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity

by Jack Morales

Prior to the 2016/2017 law changes, denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) was always a send-off offence. As a result, players guilty of DOGSO would typically experience what was known as a 'triple-punishment' which was most felt by the player's team. The triple punishment consisted of:

- conceding a penalty kick – often resulting in a goal
- losing the player guilty of the DOGSO offence – for the remaining duration of the match
- temporary suspension of that guilty player

The triple-punishment was considered more severe than the offence itself and the law surrounding DOGSO changed in 2016/2017 to make the punishments fairer to those who are guilty of DOGSO but made a genuine attempt to play the ball. These changes were focused on offences inside the penalty area – offences outside the penalty area are always a send-off offence.

Considerations

In order for an offence to deny a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO), the following four considerations must all be met:

- Distance between the offence and the goal
- General direction of the play
- Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- Location and number of defenders

The referee must consider the distance between the offence and the goals. It is more likely to be DOGSO when the offence occurs nearer to the goals; however, this is not always the case. Furthermore, the general direction of play must be considered. All other considerations met, if a player with the ball is fouled and is not heading towards goals, then it cannot be DOGSO. However, a player is allowed to move diagonally away from goal in order to beat an opponent to get closer to goal, so long as the net or overall movement is towards goal. The player must also have either control of the ball, or the likelihood of keeping or gaining control, implying that the player need not have control at the time. Finally, it is more likely to be DOGSO if there are fewer defenders around, or if they are not between the attacker and the goal. This is commonly - and unconventionally - known as 'last man'.

Handball

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate handball offence the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs. Note that a Goalkeeper can also be guilty of DOGSO if the handball is committed outside of his/her penalty area.

The most recent changes in the DOGSO laws are aimed at matching the crime with the punishment.

If even just one of the four considerations are not met then it cannot be DOGSO.

Handball by definition is deliberate and not an attempt to play the ball.

Fouls

Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which results in DOGSO and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.

A player, sent off player, substitute or substituted player who enters the field of play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offence.

The following table is a summary of possible scenarios and decisions that could possibly occur. Some of these scenarios are covered in detail in the Laws of the Game book, however some are not as clear. Additionally, some of the scenarios, particularly towards the bottom of the table are my own interpretation from the laws, however I sought the opinions of other referees from State League and higher to make sure. These interpretations are marked with a pink box ■. In summary, there is only one scenario where a caution is given for DOGSO, and that is for a foul inside the penalty area which was an attempt to play the ball. The below scenarios assume that all four DOGSO criteria have been met.

Denying and Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) – Scenarios & Decisions		
Offence	Outside PA	Inside PA
Deliberate handball (except the GK in his own PA)	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
Foul but attempted to play the ball	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Caution ■
Holding	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
Pulling	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
Pushing	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
Foul but no possibility to play the ball	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
Playing in a dangerous manner (e.g. high foot)	IDFK/Send-off ■	IDFK/Send-off ■
Verbally distracts an opponent during play (e.g. shouting to put an opponent off) ■	IDFK/Send-off ■	IDFK/Send-off ■
A player* who enters the field of play without the referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent that results in DOGSO ■	DFK/Send-off ■	PK/Send-off ■
A team official who enters the field of play and interferes with play or an opponent resulting in DOGSO ■	DFK/Expulsion	PK/Expulsion

Law 3 states that a direct free kick or penalty kick is awarded if a team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player interferes with play and play is stopped as a result.

* A player, sent off player, substitute or substituted player. Obviously a player already sent off cannot be shown another red card, however it is still a DFK or PK.

Key:
PA = Penalty Area
PK = Penalty Kick
DFK = Direct Free Kick
IDFK = Indirect Free Kick
Caution = Yellow Card
Send-off = Red Card

As law 3 states, a DFK or PK is awarded if a team official interferes with play. Therefore a team official can be guilty of DOGSO. However, team officials are not sent off. Instead, they are expelled.

Match Preparation

by Rebecca Mackie/Jack Morales

Stepping onto the football field for the very first time can be a very intimidating experience, especially when you're not quite sure what to do. Even if you have just come fresh out of a referee course, you aren't expected to know everything, especially what you should do before the start of a match. The below information has been collaborated by a number of experienced referees which hopefully will aid you in preparing for your first few matches.

At Home

You are required to arrive at the field you have been appointed to at least 20-30 minutes before kick-off. This is so you have sufficient time to prepare yourself and get the teams ready to kick-off on time. With that in mind, you should plan ahead and determine what time you need to wake up and what time you need to leave home in order to get to the field on time. Always have your bag packed the night before and make sure you have everything that you need (a list of these items can be found below). This will avoid any last-minute panicking.

If you are officiating one of the earlier time slots, don't leave it to the last-minute to eat breakfast. You should not eat a substantial meal within 1-2 hours of officiating a match, as this can cause stomach cramps. It is recommended that you start drinking water a few days before in order to be sufficiently hydrated for the weekend, especially if you're doing multiple games in one day.

20-30 Minutes before Kick-Off

When you arrive at the field, you should go straight to the technical area where you can leave your bag and get ready. Alternatively, you can leave your belongings on the opposite side of the field to the technical area, or with a parent. Either way, it is important to let both teams know that you are there. The best way to do this is just to go over to a coach or manager from each team and politely introduce yourself. This is also a good time to let each team know that you would like them to do their ID checks 5-10 minutes prior to kick-off.

It is essential that you check the field for any potential hazards or problems. It is important to check the field markings to ensure that they are all there, or that there aren't any issues. The penalty spot is often missing from most fields, so it is important that you get an idea where the penalty spot should be located (half way between the penalty area and goal area, and in the middle of the goals). It is also a good idea to quickly check for any hazards such as big sticks, rocks or rubbish.

Equipment

Compulsory:

- Whistle
- Uniform (Jersey, Shorts & Socks)
- Black Boots
- Laws of the Game Book
- Notebook
- Pens
- Red and Yellow Cards
- Watch (Stopwatch or Timer - NO Phones)
- Coin (20 cents is best)
- AR Flag(s)

Optional/Highly Advised:

- Water Bottle
- Ball Pump
- Rain Jacket
- Sun-cream

10 Minutes before Kick-Off

Ensure that you have your whistle, red and yellow cards, pen(s), watch and coin. Once you are ready, walk to the centre circle of the field and blow your whistle so that everyone should be able to hear it. This will let everyone know to do ID checks. Once the ID checks have been done at the centre circle, the managers will approve this on the EMS (Electronic Match Sheet) which you can see via your mobile device. As the referee you will need to enter your own name (and any other referees on the match) onto the EMS and show your ID or Drivers Licence to the managers who will then approve you on the EMS prior to kick-off. A demonstration of the EMS was provided by Sigrid Mulherin at the General Meeting on 19 March 2018. Procedures on the EMS have also been circulated on Facebook and to your email. These procedures can also be found on the [MWFRA website](#).

During the ID checks you should undertake an equipment and jewellery check on all players. No jewellery is permitted with the exception of some, which are outlined below. It is also a good time to do the coin toss to decide which team is kicking-off. While the ID checks are being done grab the captains assign each captain a side of the coin. It is better to assign the captains a side of the coin than let them choose as this very subtly asserts authority from the beginning. The

winner of the coin toss decides which direction they wish to run. The loser gets to kick-off. Once the ID and equipment checks are completed and the EMS has been completed by both teams you can now start the game. Just make sure that there is the appropriate number of players on the field and that everyone is ready before blowing your whistle.

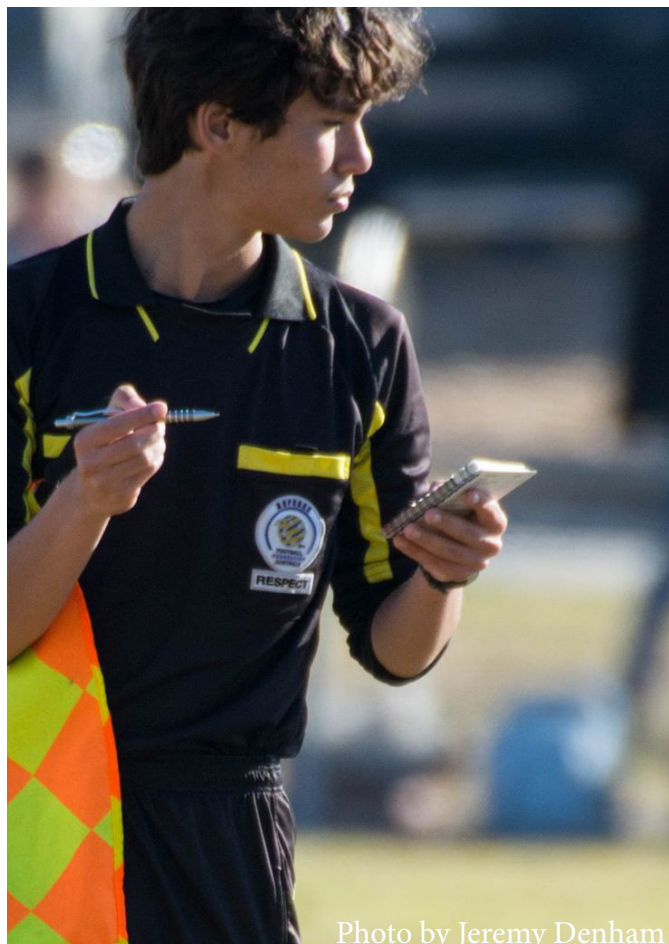


Photo by Jeremy Denham

National FFA Policy on the Wearing of Jewellery

- **Beaded Hair** - if a player is wearing hair beads the hair must be tied in a bun or covered by a hair net. Loose beaded hair should not be allowed.
- **Bobby Pins** - are permitted whether they are plastic or metal.
- **Bracelets** - not permitted unless it is a medical bracelet and is tightly secured to the wrist.
- **Body Piercing** - piercing not visible to the referee is of no concern. Should the piercing become visible the referee will ensure the item is removed.
- **Earrings** - no earrings are acceptable nor is the taping of earrings.
- **Facial Ring** - any kind of jewellery on the face or around the eyes must be removed.
- **GPS Units or Heart Rate Monitors** - permitted in accordance with Law 4.
- **Necklaces** - not permitted unless they are for medical purposes which then must be securely taped to the chest.
- **Rings** - no rings may be worn. The taping of a wedding ring is not permitted.
- **Tongue Piercing** - not permitted.
- **Watches** - players (but not match officials) must remove all watches

Defibrillator Gala Day

by John Haslam

3 March 2018 saw a great Defibrillator Gala Day on Cromer 1.

There were tournaments for over 35 women, over 35 men and over 45 men with 31 teams taking part in 46 matches. 13 brilliant referees volunteered their time and every match was covered.

In between games, the teams took part in defibrillator training which was expertly carried out by Cardiac Responder. Over 300 players participated in 12 training sessions and a further 70 had health checks from www.heartbeatoffootball.com.au

The whole day was brilliantly organised by the MWFA Defibrillator Project Team under the guidance of John Tansley and Terry Gatward. John emailed all the participating referees to thank them for their contribution towards making the day an absolute success. Rob Brennan reiterated John's thanks and said the referees made a great contribution to the day.

Please remember that all senior games in MWFA should have a defibrillator unit available at all grounds with its position marked out by the large red flag. If you do any senior games and do not see the defibrillator unit, please see if one can be obtained and mention that on your match card so we can fix that for future games.



MEMBER OFFER

Paul Franklin, of Group Financial Advising, offers free financial advice to his fellow MWFRA members. You can take up Paul on his special offer by telephoning 02 8377 0230 or emailing paul@gfadvicing.com.au.

Group Financial Advising has been operating for over thirty years providing services in superannuation (personal and corporate), pre and post-retirement benefits, self-managed super funds, pension funds, life insurance products including tax effective investments.

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