



MANLY WARRINGAH FOOTBALL REFEREES ASSOCIATION INC

2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT



MANLY WARRINGAH FOOTBALL REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Manly Warringah Football Referees Association will be held on **Wednesday 9 February 2022**, beginning at 7.00 pm on Zoom.

Agenda

- 1 Opening, welcome and apologies
- 2 Confirmation of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
- 3 Business arising
- 4 Consideration of nominations for Life Membership of the Association
- 5 Receipt of Committee reports upon the activities of the Association
- 6 Receipt of the financial statement of the Association
- 7 Consideration of Special Resolutions
- 8 Election of office-bearers
- 9 General business
- 10 Annunciation of 2021 referee awards
- 11 Close

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Jonathon Taylor
Secretary

16 January 2022

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at 7.00 pm on Monday 2 February 2021
at Beacon Hill Public School Hall, 6 Tristram Road, Beacon Hill**

1. Opening, welcome and apologies

The President, Toby Williams, declared the meeting open at 7.10 pm and thanked those present for attending the Annual General Meeting. Toby extended a warm welcome to Life Members present: Robert Brennan, Bernard Croweller, Trevor Croal, Kevin Martin OAM and Peter Robson. He then called for apologies from the floor.

Toby explained the reason for the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting and confirmed the meeting date complied with the Association's Constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

2. Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM

Moved that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2019 be accepted.

Peter Robson/Mark Pryke – Carried

3. Business arising

None

4. Consideration of nominations for Life Membership of the Association

None

5. Receipt of Committee reports upon the activities of the Association'

Copies of the 2019/20 Annual Report were distributed and it was also projected on the screen for the consideration of members. Toby Williams provided a brief overview of the season and then invited members of the Management Committee to speak to their contributions to the Annual Report.

Wayne Plant reiterated positive feedback received throughout the season from members of the football community in relation to the performance of our referees.

Kevin Martin OAM mentioned he had prepared a list of contact details for Life Members of the Association and suggested some members within the Association could be nominated for Life Membership. Toby thanked Kevin for his assistance.

Peter Robson queried the likelihood of the 2021 season proceeding. Toby responded to advise that all football stakeholders were very confident of the season proceeding.

Moved that the 2019/20 Annual Report be accepted.

Robert Brennan/Mark Pryke – Carried

6. Receipt of the financial statement of the Association

Toby Williams thanked Sigrid Mulherin and David Page (Assistant Treasurer) for sharing the duties of the Treasurer following Nick Beaugeard's resignation January.

He also acknowledged Nick's efforts during his time as Treasurer, particularly with regard to weekly referee payments.

Toby invited David to speak to the Association's audited financial statement for the year ended 30 September 2020. David stressed that whilst the audited accounts indicated a net profit of \$7551, the Association actually posted a net loss of approximately \$1800 due the 2020 season extending beyond the end of our financial year.

Robert Brennan asked why MWFA reduced its financial support to the Association in 2020. David and Toby explained funding agreements were reached with MWFA at a time when MWFA were forecasting a loss for the year but confirmed funding would return to usual levels in 2021.

Craig McBurnie enquired about Note 6 in the Association's financial statement (payables due to FNSW and FFA). David advised that, despite many requests to FNSW and FFA, he was still yet to receive their invoices.

Moved that the financial statement for the Association for the year ended 30 September 2020 be accepted.

Mark Pryke/David Le Ban – Carried

7. Consideration of Special Resolutions

None

8. Election of office-bearers

Toby Williams declared the following positions vacant: President, Vice President Juniors, Vice President Team Referees, Treasurer, Floor Member, Assessors' Convenor and Reviews Panel Chair.

Before vacating the Chair, Toby acknowledged the contributions of Nick Beauguard and Joshua Courts to the Association during their respective service on the Management Committee.

Wayne Plant, Vice President Seniors, assumed the Chair to conduct the election for the position of President.

For the position of President, Toby Williams was nominated by Mark Pryke and seconded by Frank Best. Toby accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

Toby resumed the Chair.

For the position of Vice President Juniors, Jack Morales was nominated by Wayne Plant and seconded by Jackson Mackie. Jack accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

For the position of Vice President Team Referees, Mark Pryke was nominated by Wayne Plant and seconded by David Page. Mark accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

For the position of Treasurer, David Page was nominated by Frank Maiuolo and seconded by Peter Robson. David accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

For the position of Floor Member, David Le Ban was nominated by Jack Morales and seconded by Mark Pryke. David accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

For the position of Assessors' Convenor, Malcolm Olsen was nominated by Wayne Plant and seconded by Robert Brennan. Toby acknowledged Malcolm's written acceptance of the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations, Malcolm was declared elected.

For the position of Reviews Panel Chair, Frank Best was nominated by Mark Pryke and seconded by David Page. Frank accepted the nomination and in the absence of any further nominations was declared elected.

9. General business

Kevin Martin OAM sought clarification on the wording of Special Resolution 3, approved at the 2019 AGM. Toby Williams invited Craig McBurnie to respond and he advised the wording was necessary due to a direction from NSW Fair Trading.

Peter Robson asked if the Association was impacted by the recent changes to Football Australia.

Wayne Plant mentioned Laws of the Game changes for 2020 would soon be distributed to all registered members. He also advised briefings would be held for panel referees and requested members make themselves available for trial matches.

Craig McBurnie requested members approach trial matches in the same way they would do so for matches throughout the season with regard to the issuing of cautions and send offs and associated report writing.

Seb Brennan enquired about the delivery/conduct of General Meetings in 2021. Toby suggested a hybrid (physical/online) approach may be adopted.

Robert Brennan stressed the importance of referees applying the same rigorous application of the Laws of the Game during trial matches as they would during the official competition. Members agreed it was important for referees to display a consistent level of professionalism, regardless of whether the game was a trial or otherwise.

10. Close

The President thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.

2020/21 OFFICE BEARERS

President	Toby Williams
Vice President Seniors	Wayne Plant
Vice President Juniors	Jack Morales
Vice President Team Referees	Mark Pryke
Secretary	Jonathon Taylor
Treasurer	David Page
Assessors' Convenor	Malcolm Olsen
Branch Coach	Hayden Smith / Robert Iacono
Course Coordinator	Robert Iacono
Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer	Craig McBurnie
Floor Member	David Le Ban
Registrar	Jonathon Taylor
Reviews Panel Chair	Frank Best
Reviews Panel Vice Chair	Mark Pryke
Reviews Panel	Richard Cant
	Michelle Cole
	Paul Franklin
	Stephen Logue
	Peter Robson
	Ryan Shephard
Historian	Kevin Martin OAM
Member Information Protection Officer	Mark Pryke
Webmaster	Jack Morales
Administrative Officer	Sigrid Mulherin

MWFRA LIFE MEMBERS

1964	Fred Adler *	1981	John Withnell	1991	Jim Loke
1966	JW Cook *	1982	Walter Kirk *	1991	Hans Bosschieter
1967	GH Hudson *	1983	Sydney Russell *	1992	Bernard Crossweller
1968	Joe Breen *	1983	Wayne Connor *	1993	Gerry Muoio
1970	Arthur Spence *	1985	Anthony Rathbone	1995	Ian Massey
1971	Gordon Geeves Snr *	1987	John Brilman *	1995	Peter Robson
1971	Jim Davidson *	1987	Col Coupland	2001	Trevor Croal
1973	William Ven Leeuwen *	1987	Jack Vincent	2002	Don Gale
1973	JE Boyer *	1988	Bill McBurnie *	2005	Tony Seaman *
1975	Cyril Jack *	1988	Shirley Bones *	2012	Tom Browne *
1977	John Etherington *	1989	Kevin Martin OAM	2012	Ryan Shephard
1980	Gordon Geeves Jnr	1989	John Lax	2018	Robert Brennan
1981	Alan Bartlett	1990	David Hill		
1981	John Geeves	1991	Peter Lovett		

* Denotes deceased

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Management Committee, I am pleased to present the 2020/21 Annual Report of Manly Warringah Football Referees Association for your consideration.

To begin, I acknowledge the death of Tom Browne, a former President and Life Member of the Association. Tom was a dedicated servant of our Association and I extended our sympathies to his family at the time of his passing.

Whilst I do not wish to sound repetitive, that famous Charles Dickens quote immediately comes to mind when I reflect on the 2021 season.

It was, once again, the best of times and the worst of times.

In my report last year, I anticipated that the worst of times were not yet behind us. This proved correct when NSW was plunged into lockdown on 26 June 2021.

Perhaps the most difficult lockdown of them all, restrictions were not eased until 10 October 2021, effectively cancelling Manly Warringah Football Association's (MWFA) competitions.

MWFA made the tough decision to abandon the 2021 season late in July, with my support and that of the Presidents of each club in Manly Warringah. The leadership and in particular, the clear communication from MWFA to its stakeholders in 2021 is to be commended and I express my sincere thanks to the Board and management team.

It may surprise you to learn that COVID-19 was not the greatest challenge affecting our Association in 2021.

During the short months when the season was able to proceed, fewer members were available to be appointed to the games we are engaged to cover. This created significant problems for Sigrid and you can read more about those issues in her report.

Nevertheless, the Association recorded a coverage figure of 94% in 2021. Whilst outwardly impressive, I note this was the poorest coverage rate recorded by the Association for the period 2017 to 2021.

Achieving this result would not have been possible without a mammoth amount of work undertaken by Sigrid Mulherin. I have expressed how lucky we are to have Sigrid as our Administrative Officer on many occasions and I again express my sincere thanks to Sigrid for her ongoing contribution to our Association.

I would also like to thank those members who were available each week and in some cases, who refereed more than they usually would, to assist with covering the (often very large) gaps.

Our Registrar, Craig McBurnie, compiles a fantastic coverage report for the Management Committee each year containing insightful and useful data on the efforts of our members throughout the year.



I know Craig would be happy to share his report with any member with an interest but the key points are as follows:

- When compared with seasons 2019 and 2020, our 'up to 10 game referees' provided the same level of coverage.
- When compared with seasons 2019 and 2020, the coverage rate of our '10 to 20 game referees' decreased.
- When compared with seasons 2019 and 2020, the work rate of our '40+ game referees' decreased.

This undoubtedly contributed to our reduced coverage figure but there are ways in which we can motivate these referees to do more. I will come to that later in my report.

The 'availability issue' had a ripple effect, which I have already mentioned on a number of occasions throughout the season. When the pool of available referees decreases, members who would be otherwise engaged in mentoring and assessing are required to referee. You will note, from the reports of Jack Morales and Malcolm Olsen, that our mentoring and assessing rates decreased in 2021.

This is particularly disappointing because mentoring and assessing are important activities relating to the training, development and progression of our members. The Management Committee and I sincerely hope we do not encounter these issues again in 2022.

Now, onto the best of times...

MWFRA is home to the oldest referee in NSW and perhaps Australia! In July, Peter Robson reached the milestone age of 90 and continued to actively referee. I know all members of our Association share my respect and admiration of Peter and his remarkable achievement.

In addition to serving on our Committee in several roles, including President, Peter has been instrumental in the training and development of MWFRA referees over a lengthy period.

For these reasons and in recognition of his 90th birthday, I nominated Peter for a MWFA Meritorious Service Award, which I am pleased to report was accepted by the MWFA Board. This is a fitting tribute for an incredible man who has devoted so much time and energy to our sport and to refereeing, over the past four decades. To you Robbo, congratulations!

I nominated another former President and Life Member of our Association for a Meritorious Service Award and am pleased to report his nomination was accepted by the Board as well.

Robert Brennan's length of service as President is only surpassed by that of Fred Alder, our Foundation President from 1949 to 1965. Rob served on our Committee for ten years and was a passionate advocate for all referees, demonstrating his commitment to the development of refereeing in Manly Warringah.

To mention just two of his many legacies, we have Rob to thank for engaging a paid Administrative Officer and also for securing funding from MWFA to purchase communications equipment. Furthermore, Rob initiated countless other initiatives that brought our Association into the 21st century.

I am pleased that Rob's significant service to our Association has been recognised by MWFA.

Despite the challenges of the year, it was fantastic to see so many of you enjoying yourselves out on the field. Refereeing should be enjoyable and whilst you are performing a serious and important role, you should try to have fun. I certainly do!

The performance of some members was particularly noteworthy and our most deserving members were ultimately selected to receive a referee award. On behalf of the Association, I congratulate this year's recipients.

I acknowledge the performance of our RDP referees, in particular Tom Dale and Mia Velarde, who have been selected to join the 2022 FNSW Referee Academy and other members who have progressed to the top levels of officiating. Sam Kelly and Rebecca Mackie were recently selected on the A-League match official panel for 2021/22 and Ryan Shepherd was appointed to officiate a quarter final match at the FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Each of these individuals commenced their careers at MWFRA and have proved it is not impossible to progress one's refereeing career, if you put your mind to it. Well done to them!

Earlier in this report, I mentioned motivation of referees. How do we motivate referees to referee more throughout the season?

A simple and effective measure would be to pay them more. Referees have not received a match fee increase for over six years and I've spent a considerable amount of time with David Mason (CEO, MWFA) and Joseph Sorbara (Treasurer, MWFA) to advocate for an increase.

I am pleased to report that a pay rise has been secured and a new match fee schedule will be in place for 2022. The increases have been specifically targeted to ensure refereeing is a financially viable option for junior referees and to provide an incentive for members to progress to higher levels of competition.

More details will be released at the AGM but I place on record my gratitude to both David and Joseph for their willingness to engage on this issue and support our referees.

Members may be more likely to commit to refereeing if they know opportunities to referee exist for a greater part of the year. Two years ago, our Association successfully partnered with Wakehurst FC to provide referees for its summer soccer competition. In 2021, we have also partnered with Forest Killarney FC for the same purpose.

These relationships are beneficial to members and the Association generally. Members can be assured of refereeing opportunities for a larger part of the year and the administration fee received for every match appointed to further bolsters the Association's strong financial position.

This is a great result for our Association and discussions will continue with other summer soccer competitions in the future.

Administratively, the Management Committee resolved to move to Office 365/One Drive to ensure greater email security and to have access to cloud storage and Microsoft Teams. We also engaged a website designer to create a brand new website for MWFRA and I am sure you will agree it looks brilliant. I thank Jack Morales for his extensive work on this project.

To conclude, I express my sincere gratitude to your Management Committee: Wayne Plant, Jack Morales, Mark Pryke, Jonathon Taylor, David Page, Craig McBurnie, Robert Iacono, Malcolm Olsen and David Le Ban, for their efforts on your behalf.

We remain a volunteer-lead organisation and these individuals deserve your thanks.

Most importantly I thank you, our members for your continued support and for the way in which you perform a difficult and thankless role.

I still maintain that every referee enters the field with the honest intention to do the best job they can and this was on display once again this year.

Enjoy the offseason and please return with enthusiasm in 2022. We need you!

TOBY WILLIAMS

VICE PRESIDENT SENIORS

Well fellow refs...it was another interrupted year but I am happy to report we can celebrate several successes.

- Well done to a number of referees who progressed their refereeing careers by taking on the challenges of moving up the Levels 4, 3, 2 and beyond.
- High standards of refereeing delivered every weekend.
- Referee awards to be issued this season represent fantastic officiating skills demonstrated and delivered consistently by the recipients.
- Very positive feedback received from clubs, officials and player about the performances of our referees and ARs throughout the season.
- Lowest submission of complaints this season that I have observed whilst VP Seniors.

MWFRA appreciates all of the referees who turned up consistently each week/weekend. Some referees even completed double up appointments on a Saturday for senior games and other completed the trifecta of refereeing across Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **THANK YOU!**

Onto next season. Senior referees, keep up the great job of giving back to MWFRA and the game by providing mentoring, training, guidance and support to your fellow refs.

You will be surprised to learn of the strong feedback and thanks I get from your fellow senior refs, not just the junior refs.

Praise or a pat on the back goes a long way to bring us back every week.

Start cleaning the whistle and getting the body tuned up as next season will be upon us before we know it.

WAYNE PLANT



VICE PRESIDENT JUNIORS

Mentoring Statistics

98 junior referees were mentored during the 2021 season, which resulted in a total coverage of 55% of appointable junior referees (based on 205 junior referees who officiated a centre match; and excluding juniors who only officiated as Assistant Referees).

This is a significant decrease from previous years, which I believe is due to some of the following reasons:

- Decrease in available mentors from previous years
- Increase in first year junior referee intake
- There were only 10 weekends where mentoring occurred (due to a shortened season/wet weather)



Changes to Mentoring Grading

This season saw a change up in how mentor grading is determined. In previous years, mentors would be required to score referees from “requires attention” to “very good” in a range of performance areas such as image, match duties, personality, positioning, decision making and skills as well as providing an overall numerical score that would assist in determining capabilities of progressing, finals appointments and awards at the end of the year. It was found that there was a disparity between the scores provided for each area and the overall grade provided (i.e. some referees received good scores for the performance areas, but then received a lower grade than the performance area scores would indicate, or vice versa).

In order to achieve consistency between the scoring of performance areas and the overall grade, mentors were no longer required to provide the overall grade. Instead, grades were determined by assigning a numerical value of 1 to 5 instead of “requires attention” to “very good” and applying the same methodology across all mentoring reports. In addition, an “exceptional” outcome was added to the scoring in an attempt to generate a greater spread of scores, as the previous methodology generally generated a narrow spread of scores, making it difficult to determine who was doing well and who could do with more mentoring.

JACK MORALES

VICE PRESIDENT TEAM REFEREES

The primary function of the Vice President Team Referees is to serve as a point of contact for the 307 team referees in our Association.

Sadly, this was the season that wasn't. The scope to engage with team referees was limited and my role was hardly exhausting.

Earlier in the year, I contacted all team referees to let them know that I was there to provide them with assistance, mentoring, etc. I am grateful to those who did respond and was pleased to mentor some who were genuinely interested in feedback on their refereeing performance.

I acknowledge many of our team referees who stepped in when there were gaps (almost every week) and thank them for their assistance. In future, we would love to see more team referees make themselves available for appointable games.

During the season, I also met with the MWFA to discuss matters affecting team referees, along with our President. These meetings were productive.

I am hopeful that next season will prove more interesting and that I can offer the odd suggestion to team referees who would like guidance.

MARK PRYKE

SECRETARY & REGISTRAR

The Association’s registration figures for 2021 are as follows:

- 674 total referees, of which 62 are female.
- 240 junior referees, of which 96 were first years.
- 127 senior referees.
- 307 team referees.



As Secretary, I provided a number of clearances and references to members throughout the year.

I will not be renominating for a Committee position due to personal and other commitments, however, I have enjoyed my time on the Committee and thank members for their support.

JONATHON TAYLOR

ASSESSORS’ CONVENOR

Unfortunately, the amount of assessments completed was down in 2021 (23 games v 35 games in 2020).

The assessment numbers for 2021 are as follows:

Month	Total Games	PL	AL	Average Score
March	9	9	0	7.43
April	2	0	2	7.2
May	9	4	5	7.35
June	3	2	1	7.63
Total	23	15	8	7.4

Thank you to our assessors.

MALCOLM OLSEN

COURSE COORDINATOR & BRANCH COACH

Course Coordinator

In 2021 we had great interest for our Level 4 Referee Course. Over 100 people expressed an interest to attend the Level 4 Referee Courses and



we were able to accommodate all who applied, as we usually accept as many as 90 new Referees each year.

Due to renovations at Cromer Clubhouse, a new venue was selected. The Referee Courses were held at Freshwater Senior Campus throughout February and March. Two Junior Courses and two Team Referee Courses were coordinated. The Junior sessions were held on Saturday 20th February with 49 participants and Sunday 28th February with 46 participants attending. The Team Referee Courses were conducted on 14th and 28th March with a final session conducted on Sunday 2nd May. Level 4 Referee Team Referee Courses were conducted on Sunday 14th March and Sunday 21st March.

The courses were a great success especially with the new venue. We extend our gratitude to Frank Pikardt, Principal of FSC for providing the venue. The sessions were conducted in the auditorium and was well equipped to present to the participants. I would like to thank Steve Smit for his time and professional approach to running the Team Referee courses.

A Practical session for the new Referees was conducted on Sunday 21st March at Freshwater Campus with a good participation. This was run in a professional manner with some of our top Referees, Jack Morales, Hayden Smith, Jackson Mackie, Alessandro Llana and Mariano Llana. This provided a practical demonstration and interaction with four stations set up to learn; running the line with a flag; how to identify and signal offside; duties of the referee including whistle tone, arm signals and general running the field of play; and wall management and penalty kicks.

Feedback across the course sessions was positive with most participants providing some comments that we will be considering to develop and introduce where practical for next season.

LOTG books were issued to all course participants along with the distribution of the uniforms. A special thanks to Sigrid for her support with the administration and expertise in ensuring all the participants were registered and had submitted their LOTG Certificates to attend the course as well as preparing the uniforms to be distributed.

I would like to acknowledge the support and contribution of the following people who provided support and providing their knowledge and experiences to the new referees for this year for conducting the courses or supporting the practical sessions; Jack Morales, Hayden Smith, Steve Smit, Lucianne Laufer, Andrew Best, Jackson Mackie, Bec Mackie, Alessandro Llana, Mariano Llana and Toby Williams.

A special consideration and acknowledgement is for Sigrid Mulherin for all the Administrative Duties required to ensure all members were registered and provided with their new uniforms for the season.

2022 will bring a new lease of life for running courses. We are currently considering all options to ensure continuity with the process to educate new Referees.

Branch Coach

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hayden Smith, previous Branch Coach, who resigned his position to pursue a new career and therefore was unable to continue with his commitment. Hayden was diligent in setting a high standard of professionalism with refereeing in the Association.

It was pleasing to see a number of our Senior and some of our elite Junior Referees making time to attend to the 1st year Junior Referee games and support them as a mentor, providing

encouragement and sound advice during their game. A big thanks to Jack Morales for running the successful program.

Referee Training was conducted each Thursday evening and successfully run by Jackson Mackie with support from Alessandro Llana. Training is a great opportunity to keep your fitness throughout the season and build great friendships along the way. A big thank you to Jackson and Alessandro for their commitment and effort.

These sessions were designed for Referees of all levels and I highly encourage EVERYONE to attend if you can make it next season. Fitness is a crucial element to Refereeing and like players we need to train. These sessions are held at Cromer Park 5 each Thursday night. I hope to see as many people as possible.

It was good to see the MWFRA Forum used for queries regarding considerations for the LOTG. It is pleasing to know people are seeking to learn from situations experienced on the field or have seen other Referees involved in decisions that create robust discussions. Continued participation in this Forum is encouraged and I will endeavour to provide the appropriate responses to give clarity in the queries being sought.

Due to the season ending prior to the finals' series, we did not have the opportunity to assess Referees to appoint for finals games. Whilst this may be a disappointment for many of you, we hope to have a complete season in 2022.

During the season there were a number of occasions where Referees were reported not wearing the appropriate uniform. As members of MWFRA we should be seen as professionals and this can be achieved by wearing the uniform with pride. It is good practice to arrive at the ground either in your MWFRA tracksuit or uniform ready to take the field. First impressions count. Our uniform represents authority and to be seen by the players prior to the game will build the respect you need to manage the game accordingly. Thank you to those who do this every week. If you need any uniform items please reach out to Sigrid and order the items you need.

Due to COVID-19 health restrictions, the Fitness Test was not conducted. We are aiming to coordinate these sessions in the new year. Session dates will be communicated prior to the season start.

Thank you to all the Referees that committed themselves to officiate in games throughout the season and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. May 2022, and beyond, be a complete season we can all enjoy together.

Look forward to seeing you next season.

ROBERT IACONO

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE LIAISON OFFICER

The central work of the Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer (DCLO) is to review and forward match reports to the MWFA Disciplinary Committee (the DC) and to attend the Committee's meetings. At the meetings, the role of the DCLO is as a non-voting adviser to the Committee on points of law, refereeing practices and to assist the Committee, as required, to interpret the match reports. The DCLO does not act as an advocate for a match official's report



- in the case of referees attending hearings of challenges, another MWFRA Committee member attends in support of the referee.

In a curtailed 2021 season, there were 15 meetings of the DC this year, the same as in the compressed 2020 season. There were 151 reports from match officials which were about 139 participants (127 players, 5 team officials, 4 spectators, 3 entire teams). Meeting 'activity' of an average 10.3 reports per meeting was down on 2020's 11.1 but up on 2019's 9.1.

For send-off offences and citations, the DC determined 134 suspensions, including 4 'top of the range' 8 week suspensions but none of the 'rest of season' or longer suspensions seen in previous years.

Members also need to play their part in submitting match reports that are comprehensive and unambiguous such that the DC can clearly visualise the circumstances of the incident and be confident that they have determined a sanction that fits the offence. Generally, match reports were of a high standard and fit-for-purpose – I only had cause to request referees to resubmit 14 of the 151 reports to the DC where I anticipated that the DC may otherwise have some uncertainties about what occurred in the incident according to the original report.

However, timeliness of reporting was initially poor but did improve over the course of the season. Difficulties and unfamiliarity with Dribl were undoubtedly factors, and only 80% of reports were sent to the MWFA by 5pm Monday in April. This did improve to 87.5% by June, but members are reminded of the importance of timely reporting such that the MWFA can issue notifications to clubs ahead of the Wednesday DC meeting.

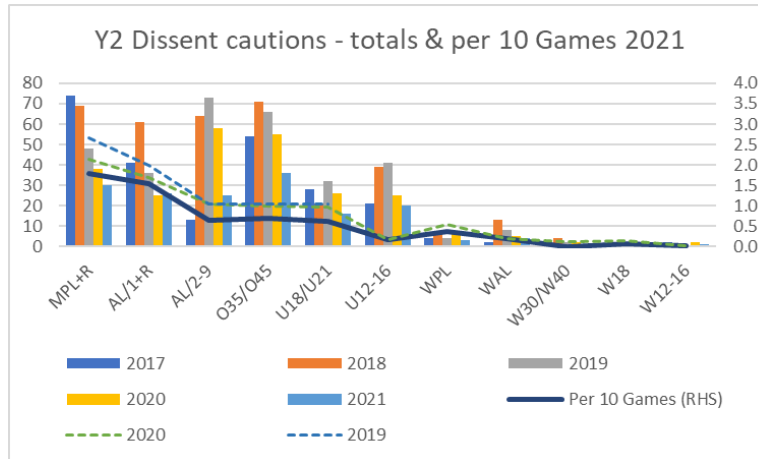
There were no challenges to DC determinations in 2021, compared to 3 in 2020. There is probably nothing new to read into this – three is close to zero anyway – and it generally reflects that the clearer the match official's report, the fairer is the DC's determination and the less likely that a challenge is warranted.

One citation case of a team official's post-match conduct toward a junior referee was examined in a hearing. I and another MWFRA Committee member that attended were satisfied that the DC probed this case with some persistence, including not being satisfied with the initial club/team responses to bring it to a hearing in the first place, but the DC did not find any misconduct proven in the context of seeking to reconcile multiple versions of the events. Notwithstanding this outcome, members should remain confident that the MWFA retains a strong stance against misconduct toward match officials, particularly junior referees.

CRAIG MCBURNIE

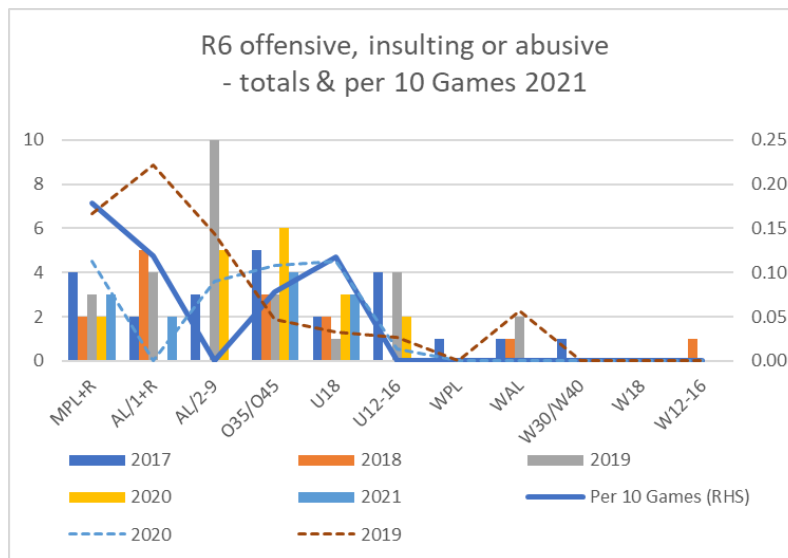
Player conduct: misconduct toward match officials

The 'Sin Bin' deterrence continued the downtrend of dissent in MPL & AL1 and with now 3 years of declines in the other divisions. Normalising for the 2021 match count, the rate of Sin Bin usage fell in MPL from 2.1 times per 10 Games to 1.8, and in AL/1s from 1.7 per 10 Games to 1.5.



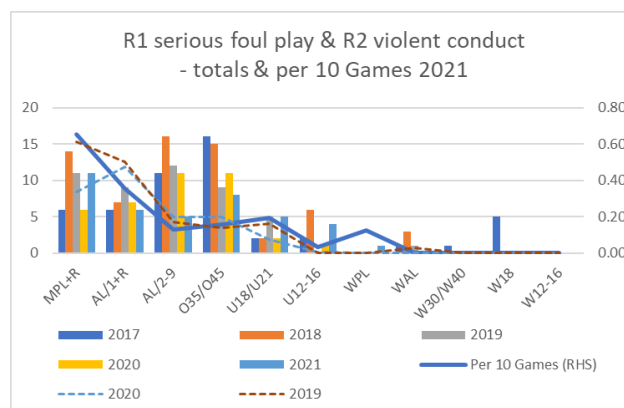
In 2021, R6 offences remained low with 0 - 4 cases across whole ranges of divisions – with the O35/O45 and U18 groups of divisions possibly emerging as sustained worst offenders.

But note that a rate of 0.2 per 10 Games is alternatively expressed as one in every 50 Games.



Player conduct: violence offences toward other players

In 2021, violence offences generally remained at their lower levels of recent years, though with a bounce-back doubling in MPL. The rate of offences per 10 games was also little changed.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The 2021 season proved to be very difficult in relation to referee appointments. Each week after available referees had been appointed there was always a very long list of uncovered games with no available referees unlike other years, this list was not always covered by kick-off time. This is reflected in the overall coverage rate of only 94%. It appears that many referees were only available for very small windows of time and only at certain locations. This made covering all games, particularly those at out-lying fields very difficult.

For the 2021 season entering um/availability into MatchRef was changed so that referees only had to enter AVAILABILITY. This reduced the number of times a referee was appointed when they weren't available but had not entered unavailability. However, it did mean that many referees waited for the uncovered games list to be published in order to pick and choose the games they wanted. This means that again out-lying fields or games at 11.30am on Saturdays were the most difficult to cover.

Saturday mornings are always our biggest challenge, as many junior referee's play at this time and senior referees don't always want to referee morning and afternoon. In 2021 Saturday afternoons also proved to be a big challenge. The additional AL1 games – increasing from 10 to 14, meant that many U18/2-4 games and stand-alone senior games were frequently left with no appointed referee or ARs. This is a very difficult situation for the parent of U18s and the players of the senior games. Even Sunday afternoons, which traditionally has been easy to cover, proved more difficult with nearly all referees having to officiate on two senior women's games back to back in order to ensure coverage. Some younger senior referees and 5th year juniors were given opportunities on WPLR games or senior women in order to ensure coverage.

In 2021, we had 98 new junior referees with 6 of these doing 0 games throughout the season. The others averaged 4 centres and 7 ARs throughout the season. However, 1 first year did 22 centres and another did 35 ARs. The junior with the most games did 54 - 36 centres and 18 ARs. The senior with the most games did 64 – 54 centres and 10 ARs.

The MWFRA also appointed to the initial State Cup games held at Cromer Park before the competition was abandoned due to the Covid-19 lockdown. And to the independent schools Peninsula Cup games which are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. We are currently responsible for co-ordinating referee appointments for the Forest Killarney Summer Soccer Competition (Monday and Friday nights) and the Wakehurst Summer Soccer Competition (Tuesday night).

Thank you to all referees who officiated throughout 2021. I am especially grateful to those that make themselves available every week and are happy to officiate at any time and any location

SIGRID MULHERIN

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Association was formed in 1949, with Mr Fred Alder serving as its President for the first 17 years. The individuals listed below have been instrumental in our Association's success.

Year	President	VP/VP Seniors	VP Juniors	Secretary	Treasurer	Floor Member
1949	F Alder	J Breen	N/A	I Lewis	I Lewis	A Bowyer
1950	F Alder	J Breen	N/A	I Lewis	GH Hudson	J Smith
1951	F Alder	J Breen	N/A	I Lewis	GH Hudson	D Sinclair
1952	F Alder	J Breen	N/A	I Lewis	GH Hudson	O Scott
1953	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	J Breen	O Scott	O Scott
1954	F Alder	J Breen	N/A	GH Hudson	O Scott	GR Hudson
1955	F Alder	T O'Toole	N/A	GH Hudson	O Scott	GR Hudson
1956	F Alder	T O'Toole	N/A	GR Hudson	R Parker	GR Hudson
1957	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	JW Cook	R Parker	R Schofield
1958	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	JW Cook	R Parker	GR Hudson
1959	F Alder	R Parker	N/A	JW Cook	J Smith	GR Hudson
1960	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	JW Cook	J Smith	J Treloar
1961	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	JW Cook	GR Hudson	R Schofield
1962	F Alder	C Gavid	N/A	GH Hudson	C Sutton	A Spence
1963	F Alder	C Gavid	N/A	GH Hudson	C Sutton	A Spence
1964	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	C Sutton	J Cook	C Gavid
1965	F Alder	GH Hudson	N/A	C Sutton	J Cook	C Gavid
1966	F Alder	G Anthill	N/A	G Anderson	G Geeves Snr	P Scott
1967	C Gavid	G Anthill	N/A	GH Hudson	G Geeves Snr	J Withnell
1968	J Davidson	J Withnell	N/A	W Van Leeuwen	G Geeves Snr	GH Hudson
1969	J Davidson	J Withnell	N/A	W Van Leeuwen	G Geeves Snr	GH Hudson
1970	J Withnell	C Jack	N/A	W Van Leeuwen	G Geeves Snr	
1971	C Jack	J Davidson	N/A	W Van Leeuwen	G Geeves Snr	W Kirk
1972	C Jack	J Davidson	N/A	R Duncan	G Geeves Snr	W Van Leeuwen
1973	J Davidson	A Perry	N/A	R Duncan	G Geeves Snr	W Van Leeuwen
1974	J Davidson	W Van Leeuwen	N/A	R Duncan	G Geeves Snr	R Cockman
1975	W Van Leeuwen	J Etherington	N/A	J Brilman & J Connor	G Geeves Snr	C Jack
1976	J Etherington	G White	N/A	P Wood	G Geeves Snr	C Jack
1977	J Etherington	G White	N/A	P Wood	R Duncan	C Jack
1978	G White	B Marsh	N/A	W Connor	W Harper	C Jack
1979	G White	A Bartlett	N/A	W Connor & C Coupland	G Richmond	G Geeves Jnr
1980	G White	A Bartlett	N/A	C Coupland	G Richmond	W Connor
1981	A Bartlett	A Rathbone	N/A	C Coupland	B Rawling	W Connor

1982	A Bartlett	A Rathbone	N/A	C Coupland	D Hill	S Russell
1983	J Geeves	A Rathbone	N/A	C Coupland	D Hill	S Russell
1984	J Geeves	A Rathbone	N/A	C Coupland	D Hill	S Russell
1985	A Rathbone	B Fowler	N/A	J Loke	J Lax	P Lovett
1986	A Rathbone	C Coupland	N/A	J Loke	J Lax	P Lovett
1987	A Rathbone	C Coupland	N/A	J Loke	J Lax	P Lovett
1988	C Coupland	B Crossweller	N/A	J Loke	J Lax	P Lovett
1989	C Coupland	B Crossweller	N/A	J Loke	J Lax	P Lovett
1990	C Coupland	B Crossweller	N/A	J Loke & P Robson	J Lax	P Lovett
1991	P Lovett	C Coupland	N/A	J Loke	P Robson	B Crossweller
1992	C Coupland	J Loke	N/A	L Davies	P Robson	B Crossweller
1993	C Coupland	J Loke	N/A	P Robson	I Massey	B Crossweller
1994	A Rathbone	J Loke	N/A	P Robson	I Massey	B Crossweller
1995	A Rathbone	J Loke	N/A	P Robson	I Massey	B Crossweller
1996	A Rathbone	D Morris	N/A	P Robson	I Massey	B Crossweller
1997	P Robson	K Martin OAM	N/A	P Robson	J Cuttle	D Gale
1998	P Robson	C Stocks	N/A	D Morris	J Cuttle	D Gale
1999	P Robson	C Stocks	T Seaman	D Morris	J Cuttle	D Gale
2000	L Hudson	R Shephard	T Seaman	V Movsessian	A Vale	D Gale
2001	L Hudson	R Shephard	T Browne	W Ranson	A Vale	D Gale
2002	L Hudson	R Shephard	T Browne	W Ranson	A Vale	D Gale/P Robson
2003	T Browne	R Shephard	P Muir	T Browne	A Vale	C Stocks/P Muir
2004	T Browne	R Shephard	P Muir	D Hill	A Vale	K Martin OAM
2005	T Browne	R Shephard	P Muir	D Hill	A Vale	K Martin OAM
2006	T Browne	R Shephard	P Muir	D Hill	A Vale	K Martin OAM
2007	T Browne	R Shephard	P Muir	P Respicio	C Stocks	K Martin OAM
2008	T Browne	J Raphael	P Muir	P Respicio	C Stocks	K Martin OAM
2009	J Raphael	R Shephard	R Brennan	J Barnes	G Ashcroft	K Martin OAM
2010	J Raphael	R Shephard	R Brennan	A Smith	G Ashcroft	I Bernard
2011	R Brennan	R Shephard	S Brennan	M Worwood	G Ashcroft	T Lee
2012	R Brennan	F Best	S Brennan	M Worwood	D Page	Discontinued
2013	R Brennan	F Best	S Brennan	M Worwood & D Le Ban	D Page	
2014	R Brennan	F Best	M Pryke	D Le Ban	D Page	
2015	R Brennan	N Barrett	C Senior	D Le Ban	D Page	
2016	R Brennan	Ken Lewis	C Senior	J Morales	D Page	
2017	R Brennan	Ken Lewis	C Senior	M Llana	D Page	
2018	R Brennan	W Plant	C Senior	R Socratous	N Beaugeard	
2019	T Williams	W Plant	J Morales	R Socratous	N Beaugeard	
2020	T Williams	W Plant	J Morales	J Taylor	N Beaugeard	VP Team Ref
2021	T Williams	W Plant	J Morales	J Taylor	D Page	Mark Pryke

HONOUR ROLL - AWARDS

Since 1981, the Association has issued refereeing awards to our high performing referees.

Referee of the Year Syd Russell Memorial Award

1981	Tony Rathbone	1995	Tony Rathbone	2009	Ryan Shephard
1982	John Geeves	1996	Lyle Hudson	2010	Jorge Martins
1983	Alan Bartlett	1997	Lyle Hudson	2011	Jorge Martins
1984	Gordon Geeves Jnr	1998	Colin Stocks	2012	Jorge Martins
1985	John Geeves	1999	Andrew Vale	2013	Jorge Martins
1986	Syd Russell	2000	Graham Wilks	2014	Sebastien Brennan
1987	Dave Hill	2001	Andrew Vale	2015	Sebastien Brennan
1988	Syd Russell	2002	Andrew Vale	2016	Sebastien Brennan
1989	Col Coupland	2003	Lyle Hudson	2017	Jorge Martins
1990	Syd Russell	2004	Ryan Shephard	2018	Andrew Best
1991	Tony Rathbone	2005	Ryan Shephard	2019	Andrew Best
1992	Tony Rathbone	2006	Andrew Vale	2020	Not awarded
1993	Tony Rathbone	2007	Ryan Shephard	2021	Hayden Smith
1994	Tony Rathbone	2008	James Raphael		

Assistant Referee of the Year

2006	C Ramsay	2014	Ivica Covic
2007	Thomas Lee	2015	Ivica Covic
2008	Thomas Lee	2016	Reece Senior
2009	Thomas Lee	2017	Jackson Mackie
2010	Tyler Egger	2018	Jackson Mackie
2011	Courtney Jones	2019	Brendan Giuffrida
2012	James Hepworth	2020	Geoffrey Peterson
2013	Reece Senior	2021	Jannie Nel

Senior Referee of the Year

2004	John Cuttle	2013	Gerry Lenihan
2005	David Torevell	2014	Gerry Lenihan
2006	Peter Robson	2015	Kenneth Lewis
2007	Niels-Otto Mathisen	2016	Gerry Lenihan
2008	Frank Best	2017	Gerry Lenihan
2009	Kenneth Lewis	2018	Wayne Plant
2010	Frank Best	2019	David McLean
2011	Keith Stewart	2020	Not awarded
2012	Stephen Logue	2021	Malcolm Olsen

Under 25 Referee of the Year

1991	Andrew Vale	2002	Ryan Shepheard	2013	Sebastien Brennan
1992	Greg Coupland	2003	Matthew Gillett	2014	Alec Smith
1993	Andrew Vale	2004	Matthew Gillett	2015	Alec Smith
1994	Andrew Vale	2005	Paul Cliff	2016	Alec Smith
1995	Andrew Vale	2006	Matthew Gillett	2017	Toby Williams
1996	Colin Stocks	2007	Matthew Gillett	2018	Toby Williams
1997	Colin Stocks	2008	Bradley Duke	2019	Naomi Peterson
1998	Nick Dracakis	2009	Brett Downie	2020	Not awarded
1999	Ryan Shepheard	2010	Brett Downie	2021	Jasmin Hill
2000	Ryan Shepheard	2011	Brett Downie		
2001	Ryan Shepheard	2012	Sebastien Brennan		

Under 21 Referee of the Year

1985	Annabel Lax	1998	Mark Higgs	2011	Sebastien Brennan
1986	Andrew Eason	1999	Luke Ventress	2012	Josh Ward
1987	Paul Blackwood	2000	Adrian Carratt	2013	Nick Barrett
1988	Andrew Hill	2001	Matthew Gillett	2014	Jack Morales
1989	Greg Coupland	2002	Matthew Gillett	2015	Jack Morales
1990	Andrew Hill	2003	Paul Clift	2016	Jack Morales
1991	Greg Coupland	2004	Matthew Gillett	2017	Josh Courts
1992	Scott Bendall	2005	Bradley Duke	2018	Ivica Covic
1993	Michael Dine	2006	Bradley Duke	2019	Jasmin Hill
1994	Michael Dine	2007	Bradley Duke	2020	Not awarded
1995	Christopher Parratt	2008	Sam Steindl	2021	Brendan Giuffrida
1996	Ryan Shepheard	2009	Alec Smith		
1997	Ryan Shepheard	2010	Alex Smith		

Level 3 Referee of the Year Peter Clay Memorial Award

1998	Graeme Kellow	2006	Colin Grant	2014	Jorge Martins
1999	Greg Courts	2007	Ed Penny	2015	Luke Petersen
2000	Greg Courts	2008	Paul Respicio	2016	Darius Turner
2001	Richard Cant	2009	Colin Grant	2017	Damien Bury
2002	Richard Cant	2010	Colin Grant	2018	Damien Bury
2003	Chris Grant	2011	Allan Whitford	2019	Hayden Smith
2004	Matthew Gillett	2012	Not awarded	2020	Not awarded
2005	Paul Clift	2013	David Le Ban	2021	Alex Cowdery

Under 18 Referee of the Year Shirley Bones Memorial Award

1983	Murray Connor	1996	Andrew Jordan	2009	Matthew Collins
1984	Ken Artuso	1997	Mark Higgs	2010	Nick Barrett
1985	Oscar Gonzales	1998	Trevor Simonsen	2011	Nick Barrett
1986	Thomas Haerland	1999	Adrian Carratt	2012	Toby Williams
1987	Greg Coupland	2000	Matthew Gillett	2013	Jack Morales
1988	Greg Coupland	2001	Andrew Best	2014	Andrew Iles
1989	Dean Heffernan	2002	Andrew Best	2015	Joshua Courts
1990	Julian Humphrey	2003	Bradley Duke	2016	Joshua Courts
1991	David Goodwin	2004	Bradley Duke	2017	Jasmin Hill
1992	Michael Dine	2005	Howard Louis	2018	Alessandro Llana
1993	Rohan Ashover	2006	Adam Trevor	2019	Jackson Mackie
1994	Matthew Jordan	2007	Adam Trevor	2020	Not awarded
1995	Ryan Shepheard	2008	Alec Smith	2021	Thomas Dale

Rookie of the Year

2006	J Jackson	2012	Liam Power	2018	Jorja Boon
2007	Alana Wallis	2013	Ivica Covic	2019	Callum Eason
2008	Nick Barrett	2014	Alex Zhou	2020	Samuel Stanbury
2009	Hayden Jewell	2015	Evan Mitchell	2021	Mia Nel
2010	Adam Powers	2016	Brendan Giuffrida		
2011	Joshua Pierre	2017	Geoffrey Peterson		

2nd Year Referee of the Year 3rd Year Referee of the Year

2017	Harry Armstrong	2017	Jacob Gallagher
2018	Joe O'Brien	2018	Brendan Giuffrida
2019	Thomas Dale	2019	Shaun Denham
2020	Mia Velarde	2020	Hannah Lovlin
2021	Adam Halberstadt	2021	Mia Alcock

Vice President Juniors' Achievement Award

2014	Rebecca Mackie
2015	Jasmin Hill
2016	Jacob Gallagher
2017	Alex Giles
2018	Ethan Robb
2019	Zahra Chew
2020	Daniel Flewin
2021	Nathan Barlow

MWFRA HONOUR ROLL

Our Association has been well represented over the years by our members who have been selected to officiate prestigious finals matches and events.

Year	Referee	Appointment
1980	Tony Rathbone	Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
1983	Syd Russell	Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
1988	Dave Hill	U21 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
1993	Andrew Vale	Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
1997	Colin Stocks	U21 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final U18 Football NSW Champions of Champions Final
1998	Colin Stocks	O35 NSW Champions of Champions Final
2001	Kevin Martin	U15 Australian Football Titles
	Andrew Vale	U18 Football NSW Champions of Champions Final
	Graham Wilks	U18 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final U17 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2002	Adrian Barlow	U16 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
	Greg Coupland	AL Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final U21 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Andrew Vale	U17 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2003	Andrew Best	U13 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2004	Chris Grant	U13 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Richard Cant	U15 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2004	Ryan Shepheard	U13 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2005	Howard Louis	U13 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2006	Wayne Ranson	U15 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2007	Mitchell Compton	U15 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Adam Trevor	U14 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2008	Matthew Gillett	U21 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Sam Steindl	U16 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Alana Wallis	WU16 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
2009	Nick Barrett	U12 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals U13 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
	Michelle Cole	WO30 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Jake Parker	WU12 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
	Christopher Parratt	AL Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
2010	Nick Barrett	U15 NSW Super/Premier Youth League Final
	Chester Lenihan	U13 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2011	Adam Powers	U14 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
	Josh Ward	U15 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2012	Scott Peterson	U16 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
	Toby Williams	U14 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2013	Ken Lewis	U17 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2014	Michelle Cole	WU21 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2015	Seb Brennan	AAM Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2017	Josh Courts	U21 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
2017	Naomi Peterson	U17 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
2018	Ivica Covic	Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Finn Mitchell	WU16 Football NSW Amateur Cup (State Cup) Final
2019	Conor Carroll	W16 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals
	Shaun Denham	U14 Football NSW Champions of Champions Finals

2021	Sam Kelly	2021/22 A-League Men's Fourth Official Panel
	Rebecca Mackie	2021/22 A-League Women's Referee Panel
	Ryan Shephard	FIFA Futsal World Cup