

# 2026 CFA Sydney Season Referee Handbook



WEBSITE: [www.cfasydney.com.au](http://www.cfasydney.com.au)

## Introduction

This referee handbook will be a guide to your roles and responsibilities as a referee within The CFA Sydney competition.

This Referee Handbook document sets out relevant information for the 2025 season.

## Points of Contact

Matt Jenkin –Referees Convenor	0423 109 679	<a href="mailto:referees@nswcfa.com.au">referees@nswcfa.com.au</a>
Luke Paton – Technical Director of Referees	0409 819 658	<a href="mailto:luke.dvpaton@hotmail.com">luke.dvpaton@hotmail.com</a>
Keith Clissold –Association Technical Director / Referee inspector	0408 248 262	<a href="mailto:kbclissold@yahoo.com.au">kbclissold@yahoo.com.au</a>
Kim Sydenham - Secretary	0410 444 863	<a href="mailto:secretary@cfasydney.com.au">secretary@cfasydney.com.au</a>

We are here to assist you in your refereeing. If you are having problems on the pitch, have questions on interpretations or applications of the law you can give us a call to discuss them.

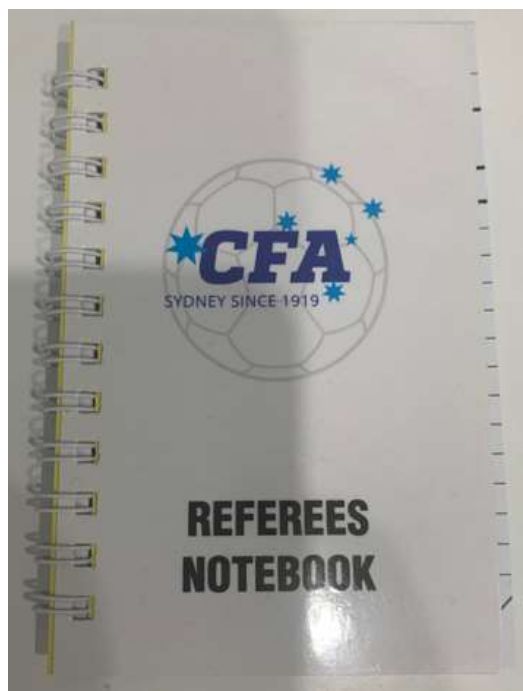
The Referee Convenor does all match appointments including Semi Finals and Grand Finals.

The Technical Director of Referees takes no part in appointing referees unless asked by the Referee Convenor.

## Match Availability

Login into the myclubmate system (address: <http://referees.cfasydney.com.au/> ) where you will find the area to input your availability with preferences on location, time and a comments section for each week.

## Referees Notebook



LOCATION:				
DATE:		KICK OFF:		
HOME TEAM:				
SUBSTITUTION				
				ON
				OFF
INFRINGEMENTS			GOALS	
No.	TIME	REASON	No.	TIME

All, results and cards are to be recorded and kept in your referees notebook, in case the Association needs to query scores or cards given

### SEND OFF (RED CARD) OFFENCES

- R1** Serious Foul Play
- R2** Violent Conduct
- R3** Spitting at an opponent or any person
- R4** Denying a goal by deliberately handling the ball
- R5** Deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
- R6** Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** Receiving a second caution in the same match

### CAUTION(YELLOW CARD) OFFENCES

- Y1** Unsporting Behaviour
- Y2** Dissent by word or action
- Y3** Persistent infringement 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 or re-entering the field without permission of the referee
- Y7** Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

## Post Match Duties

As part of your referee duties, you must complete several administration duties related to the match you officiated. These are a part of your official duties and are part of your match payments. After the match, you need to login into the myclubmate system (address: <http://referees.cfasydney.com.au/>) where you will find the areas to lodge match result, yellow cards, red cards and incident reports.

It is of utmost importance that you input all relevant information as soon as possible after the match (when you return home after the game). Please ensure that any red card reports are completed by Sunday night at the latest as they are needed for judiciary on Monday.



## Recording Match Result

After logging in (picture one), it will take you to the menu screen (picture two). Click the match on the screen where you will enter the result. Please check if the results are correct before entering the result.

## Recording Yellow Cards

After logging in (picture 1), follow step one to use the menu (picture 2) to navigate to “Yellow Card” page. Select the team and player, where you will enter the type of caution and minute sanction received. There is no need to provide a description or reason for the yellow card. If the player is not listed in the team or correct game, send an email to Kim Sydenham ([secretary@nswcfa.com.au](mailto:secretary@nswcfa.com.au)) providing the player number, time of sanction and sanction code.

## Red Cards and Report

- After logging in (picture one), use the menu (picture two) to navigate to “Red Card” page. Select the team and player, where you will enter the type of red card and minute sanction received.
- For all red cards, it is necessary to write a small report to describe the incident leading to the red card. If sufficient information is not provided, the player will not be further sanctioned by the judiciary. In your report include:
  - **Who** were the players involved and sanctions from both teams in the incident (sometimes two or more)?
  - **When** did the incident occur?
  - **Where** were you in relation to the incident and where did the incident occur?
  - **What** happened in the lead up to the incident?
  - **Why** was the red card issued? (Use relevant language from the LOTG relating to the sanctions e.g. serious foul play, violent conduct, excessive force, criteria for meeting a DOGSO etc.)
  - **What** happened after the red card was issued?
  - **How** was play restarted?
  - For two yellow cards in a match, be sure to provide a description of the two separate yellow cards that led to the red card.
- If the player is not listed in the team or correct game, send an email to Kim Sydenham ([secretary@cfasydney.com.au](mailto:secretary@cfasydney.com.au)) providing the information listed above.

## Incident Report

During the match, incidents may occur during which a report may need to be submitted.

These situations include:

- Issues with spectators abusing the referee.
- Issues with grounds or safety concerns.
- Teams not providing ground officials.
- Teams not providing two official match balls.
- A serious injury to a player.
- A game abandoned due to injury or interference or weather issues.
- No associate referees were provided.

If these issues are not reported on the system, it makes it difficult for the Management Committee to properly support referees during the season (especially spectator or team behavior issues). These reports allow them to act on issues as they arise and ensure games run smoothly for all involved (us referees too!)

### First Referee Meeting

Our first meeting is designed to focus on:

- i) Review the law changes made to the most current version of the LOTG (2024/2025).
- ii) Clarification around misinterpretation of the Laws of the Game over the past few years and ensure that these laws are being consistently applied across the CFA Sydney Referee Group.
- iii) Setting the standards and defining the expectations around the core requirements of refereeing including:
  - a. Referee Meetings Attendance
  - b. Expected Arrival Time at Matches
  - c. Arriving Late at Matches
  - d. Teamwork with your AR and refereeing team
  - e. Inputting Cards into the System ([referees.cfasydney.com.au](http://referees.cfasydney.com.au))
  - f. Correctly Recording Sanctions
  - g. Send off Reports

If you did not attend the meeting and require further clarification, please contact the technical director for more information.

---

## Whatsapp Group

We have two whats app groups, one for junior referees and one for senior referees where:

- Information will be distributed to referees.
- Reminders about events and meetings will be posted.
- A forum to raise issues or questions from matches or LOTG.
- To create a sense of camaraderie and togetherness amongst the referee group.
- Some lighthearted humor and off topic discussion.

Please be aware that the group will be monitored and moderated. Please be mindful of your communication or comments made in relation to other referees, clubs, players or CFA Sydney officials.

The group is for active referees only and please contact the referees convenor if you need access.

## Match Fees

The following table refers to qualified referee pay rates for the 2026 winter season

<b><u>Division/Match Description</u></b>	<b><u>Fee</u></b>
Referee – Knockout (per night)	\$60.00
Referee - Women (per game)	\$50.00
Referee - O35 (per game)	\$50.00
Referee – Senior (per game)	\$80.00
Referee - Under 6 (per game)	\$15.00
Referee - Under 7 (per game)	\$15.00
Referee - Under 8 (per game)	\$20.00
Referee - Under 9 (per game)	\$20.00
Referee - Under 10 (per game)	\$20.00
Referee - Under 11 (per game)	\$25.00
Referee - Under 12 (per game)	\$38.00
Referee - Under 13 (per game)	\$42.00
Referee – Under 14 (per game)	\$42.00
Referee – Under 15 (per game)	\$50.00
Referee – Youth (per game)	\$60.00
Referee - Junior Zone Reps (per night)	\$60.00
Referee - Six a side (Junior) for the day	\$60.00
Referee - Six a side (Senior) for the day	\$100.00
Associate Referee – Club linesman (per game)	\$20.00
Associate Referee – Junior Referee (per game)	\$10.00
Associate Referee – Senior referee (per game)	\$40.00

## **Referee Meetings**

There are generally referee meetings during the season however, it is of utmost importance that you attend these meetings. We cover information on law changes, interpretation of game laws, issues during the season and administrative duties critical to your role as referee.

It is important that you make every effort to attend. If you are unable to attend, please contact the referee convenor as a courtesy.

The referee meetings are catered, please make sure you tell the referee convenor any special dietary requirements so we can properly cater for your needs and numbers.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is not compulsory but is strongly recommended. Not attending referee meetings will impact games awarded during the season and finals series, with other considerations including the consistent application of LOTG, turning up late to matches or not at all, unexplained unavailability during the season and completing the duties associated with being a referee.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the meetings is:

- Develop a sense of team amongst the referees.
- Develop referees' understanding of the Laws of the Game and how to apply them.
- Provide a forum for referees to talk about the game and seek guidance and encouragement from other referees.
- 

## **Format of meetings**

- The meetings are not lectures or a one-sided monologue, but a forum style and interactive. As much as possible, we will look to use video content to provide examples of subject material. Each meeting will be broken into 3 general areas:
- General business: information from the Referee Convenor and comments from the Association Management Committee to the referees.
- Problems on the pitch: a chance for each referee to ask questions or seek guidance about issues they have on the pitch without the fear of being criticised.
- Special topic: We will select a topical discussion point and explore what it means for our refereeing.

## Location

Meetings are held at Berala Community Center  
Address: 98-104 Woodburn Rd, Berala NSW 2141

## Significant Season Dates

11 April 2026	Season starts
15 April 2026	Women's and O35 competition start
5 May 2025	Mid-week State Cup competition start
8 June 2026	Long Weekend Six a side competition
8 August 2026	Last Round of Regular Season
15 August 2026	Finals Series Commence
29 August 2026	Grand Final Day
12 September 2026	Referees Annual End of season Dinner

**Game times:** Below is a summary of the game specific laws (quick reference guide).

2026



Age Group	Ball Size	Game Time	Minimum players to play	Maximum player on field	Subs on card	Maximum Number of players on card	Maximum players that can be registered per team	Field Size	OFF SIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 6	3	15 minutes each way	4	6	4	10	12	MINI	NO
Under 7	3	20 minutes each way	4	6	5	11	12	MINI	NO
Under 8	3	20 minutes each way	6	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 9	4	20 minutes each way	6	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 10	4	20 minutes each way	6	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 11	4	20 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 12	4	25 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 13	4	30 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 14	5	30 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 15	5	30 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 16	5	30 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 17	5	35 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 18	5	40 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	18	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 9 girls (5 aside)	4	20 minutes each way	4	5	4	9	11	MINI	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 11 girls (9 aside)	4	20 minutes each way	7	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Under 14 girls (9 aside)	4	30 minutes each way	7	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Senior Mens	5	45 minutes each way	7	11	5	16	16	FULL	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
Womens (9 aside)	5	25 minutes each way	6	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES
O35 (9 aside)	5	25 minutes each way	6	9	5	14	16	SMALL SIDED	OFFSIDE RULE APPLIES

## New Referees & Referees Exam

If you know anyone who would be interested in refereeing this year, please the referees convenor. For new referees, please provide any referee qualifications you have completed in the past. If you have not completed any FA referee courses, we will provide you with an online test to complete in which you must pass to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and application of the LOTG. There are three components:

- i) A section testing your application of the offside law with diagrams
- ii) A multiple-choice section testing your LOTG with a focus on changes in recent years
- iii) A short answer section which looks to test your familiarity with key areas of the LOTG

The exam is also available for current referees who want to keep their knowledge up to date and is a good way to prepare for the season. There is no time limit, progress can be saved (via signing in to google forms) .

Junior Referees Exam Link

For those who wish to referee Under 6 to Under 10 Games

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4s120JzlrG0D7LhzLmRzmDlihiAPsRJABQM\\_d8JJCidnU0w/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4s120JzlrG0D7LhzLmRzmDlihiAPsRJABQM_d8JJCidnU0w/viewform?usp=header)

Senior Referees Exam Link

For those who wish to referee Under 11 to All age men

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F\\_R0PZnEP6RG6jllddKP3ocAfDzSAQkNZC-p1fTMMdE/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F_R0PZnEP6RG6jllddKP3ocAfDzSAQkNZC-p1fTMMdE/edit)

### **Technical Director of Refereeing**

Luke Paton will now looking to build on these fantastic foundations by offering further opportunities for our referees to grow and develop. These include:

- Bringing FA referee courses to CFA Sydney
- Offering mentoring to younger referees
- Coaching and Assessments for referees
- Junior Referees to take AR3 role helping cover Senior games with two other senior referees

If any of this is of interest to you, please contact the referees convenor.

### **Associate Referees**

At CFA Sydney when official Assistant Referees are not provided to senior games, each team is requested to provide an Associate Referee who will take over the role as AR1 and/or AR2.

Please note:

- Associate Referees come with differing abilities and skill levels, their main role is to help the Referee make decisions when it comes to balls in and out of play & offside. Some Associates Referees may be able to provide more assistance than others.

- Ensure that the Associate Referee provided is raising the flag correctly, not distracted (playing or talking on phone) and wearing clothing distinguishing them from the on-field players.
- If teams don't provide an Associate Referee, be sure to communicate with captains to be clear that you will need to judge the ball in and out of play plus offsides from your position as referee on the field.

### **State Cup (Mid-Week Knock Out Competition)**

The senior State Cup / knockout competition. These games will be held on Tuesday or Thursday nights. Before the competition begins, the referee coordinator will contact you about your availability and specific rules for the competition.

### **June Long Weekend Six a side Competition**

Every year on the Monday of the June Long Weekend, CFA Sydney holds an annual one day Six a side competition for both junior and senior teams. It is an enjoyable day and provides a different sort of fun from the regular season. Many referees are required and the days success depends on getting as many referees participating as possible.

### **Uniform**

Any referee with new uniform requirements should contact the Referee Convenor.

Referees are reminded that the players, coaches and managers impressions of referees start from the moment you arrive at the ground. You should be appropriately dressed at all times, this includes black comfortable shoes/boots, socks up straight and shirt tucked in a tidy appearance.

The jewelry policy that applies to players also applies to referees.

---

## Reserve grade Game times for seniors

<b>REFEREE RESERVE GRADE GAMES TIMES</b>				
To allow Reserve Grade game to finish at 3pm				
Half time is 5 minutes but allow extra 3 for changing, subs, etc				
** Remember if team is late must start before 1/3 normal playing time has elapsed				
viz. 30minutes or 2pm (NO LATER)				
<u>START TIME</u>	<u>Avail. Time</u>	<u>EACH HALF</u>	<u>HALF TIME</u>	<u>2ND HALF</u>
PM			PM	PM
1.30		41 minutes	2.110	2.190
1.31	40.50	"	2.115	2.195
1.32	40.00	"	2.120	2.200
1.33	39.50	"	2.125	2.205
1.34	39.00	"	2.130	2.210
1.35	38.50	"	2.135	2.215
1.36	38.00	"	2.140	2.220
1.37	37.50	"	2.145	2.225
1.38	37.00	"	2.150	2.230
1.39	36.50	"	2.155	2.235
1.40	36.00	"	2.160	2.240
1.41	35.50	"	2.165	2.245
1.42	35.00	"	2.170	2.250
1.43	34.50	"	2.175	2.255
1.44	34.00	"	2.180	2.260
1.45	33.50	"	2.185	2.265
1.46	33.00	"	2.190	2.270
1.47	32.50	"	2.195	2.275
1.48	32.00	"	2.200	2.280
1.49	31.50	"	2.205	2.285
1.50	31.00	"	2.210	2.290
1.51	30.50	"	2.215	2.295
1.52	30.00	"	2.220	2.300
1.53	29.50	"	2.225	2.305
1.54	29.00	"	2.230	2.310
1.55	28.50	"	2.235	2.315
1.56	28.00	"	2.240	2.320
1.57	27.50	"	2.245	2.325
1.58	27.00	"	2.250	2.330
1.59	26.50	"	2.255	2.335
2.00	26.00	"	2.260	2.340

## IFAB Laws of the Game

All referees are encouraged to download and read the Laws of the Game which can be found on the following website: <http://www.theifab.com/laws>

Please note, IFAB have created a smartphone app where you can have the LOTG preloaded on your phone and is a fantastic way to have an easily accessible copy on match days.

*END OF DOCUMENT*