



# THE WHISTLEBLOWER

newsletter of the

## CENTRAL COAST RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Edition 4, 2021  
15 February

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With our season now well and truly underway, with referee training being running for about 5 weeks and seven of our referees blasting their whistles for the first time in true competition at the Hamilton Sevens last Saturday, it is good to see the early season enthusiasm of our members. This weekend sees our members refereeing at the 7s By The Sea hosted by The Lakes Rugby Club at Slade Park. Everybody who is available to attend this carnival should contact Tony Furey - even if you can only spend a few hours.

At this stage, we are negotiating a venue for Tuesday night training sessions and it is hoped that we will be able to recommence training on Tuesday evening 23rd February.

On Thursday night last week I logged in to a Zoom conference hosted by RA Referee Manager Graham Cooper. This meeting was for all Association Presidents across the nation. The meeting outlined a number of issues being faced by RA in appointing referees to carnivals up to Super Rugby due to ongoing COVID restrictions and the uncertainty surrounding border closures in case of breakouts, as we are currently seeing with the Melbourne situation. Graham also updated us on issues that they hope to support community rugby including the upgrade of both Sideline and the Referee Appointment System (RAS). Both of these updated versions are due for release on 1 March, ready for the new season, with training to be provided soon after the release date. I look forward to seeing how these changes will positively impact on our processes.

Don't forget, trial games will begin in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for emails regarding these, along with posts on social media and in this newsletter.

*Tony Rudd*

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## REFEREE COACH MEETING

Tonight, our referee coaches will meet to discuss processes and procedures for both the consistent coaching, and appointment of referees for 2021. Initial discussions with the senior executive, Shane Snook (Referee Coach Coordinator) and Stuart Formston (Referee Development Officer) looked towards how we could make the coaching and reporting to referees (via Sideline) more effective. However, at a meeting of Referee Association Presidents from across Australia on Thursday night last week, it was revealed that the Sideline process was to be streamlined (as is the Referee Appointment System - RAS). This new version will be released on 1 March, so it might be worth waiting and seeing what Sideline offers before we make changes.

Note from the coaches meeting will be forwarded to referees for discussion prior to changes being implemented.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our Association still has sponsorship opportunities for businesses in 2021 and 2022. We are looking for a Major Sponsor and a Touch Flag sponsor to compliment what we already have through our valued partnerships with Fabric Architecture Studio and Callaway Plumbing.

If any of our members are aware of possible sponsors, please pass details on to any of our executive who will chase any leads that might come forward.

With further sponsorship, we will be better able to provide opportunities for referee education, travel to other zones to enhance refereeing experiences, both on and off field gear and coaching resources.

## HAMILTON SEVEN'S

On Saturday 13 February, a number of our referees travelled up to Newcastle to support the officiating at the Hamilton Rugby Club, Mick 'Whale' Currey Sevens. Refereeing in some appalling conditions, with rain blowing across the ground horizontally at some stages of the day, our referees did themselves and our Association proud.

This further goes to consolidate the partnership that we are forming with the NHRRA and we thank them for making spaces available for our referees.





Thanks to David Wallace (NHRRA) for photos.

### 7s BY THE SEA

This weekend sees the running of the annual 7s By The Sea, hosted by The Lakes Rugby Club at Slade Park. If you are able to referee at this carnival and haven't already done so, please contact Tony Furey and let him know of your availability. As has been normal in recent years, we are very much looking forward to welcoming referees from outside our zone - both Sydney and NSW Country. This adds significantly to the fellowship of refereeing, meeting new referees, learning from them and just adding to the fun of the day.

Even if you can only spend a few hours, there will be opportunities for you to have a run.

The standard of rugby at this carnival is high, with local clubs meeting clubs from other NSW Country zones and the Sydney Sub-districts competitions. The Lakes will no doubt be looking forward to defending their 2020 carnival win.



## REGISTRATION

At this stage, we only have 27 members registered through the Rugby Xplorer app. Of the 27 registered, only 18 of those would be considered as 'active' referees, the others include coaches, club supporters of our Association and those who will referee on a very part time basis. 18 referees is nowhere near what we need to cover our weekly schedule of games between CCRU and CCJRU. If you intend to referee in 2021, please register. If you plan not to referee with us this year, please let a member of our executive know.

Once registered, please check your accreditation and make it a priority to update any aspect of accreditation that has lapsed. e.g. My Level 2 Referee Coach accreditation runs out on 31/12/2020. I will need to register via the Learning Centre to complete the Law exam and then have somebody assess me as a coach by sitting in on a feedback session, assess my written report on the referee etc early in the new season. No member will be appointed to games in 2021 who is not accredited, especially with SmartRugby.

Our competition kicks off on the 10 April, with many clubs arranging trial games for the coming weeks. Only registered members can be appointed to those games, as well as any 7s tournaments and even attendance at our own training sessions.

## COURSES AND QUALIFICATION UPGRADES

All referees and referee coaches are encouraged to consider upgrading their qualifications for 2021. e.g. upgrade from Level 1 to Level 2 in both refereeing and coaching. At this stage, dates for these courses have not been confirmed. But, keep an eye out on the Learning Centre on the Rugby Portal for these dates.

Even if it has been some time since you did your L2 Referee course (for example), it may be a good idea to do the course again to learn new skills and approaches. Many of our 'experienced' members have already indicated they will be resitting course in full rather than just do the minimal upgrade of Law exam and on-field assessment.



**RUGBY**  
REFEREES

# MATCH OFFICIAL EDUCATION

**REFEREE READY ONLINE**  
MARCH: 1<sup>ST</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL: 1<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup>  
MAY: 5<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>

**LEVEL 2 REFEREE COURSE ONLINE**  
APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>  
RUNS OVER 8 WEEKS

**REFEREE COACH LEVEL 1**  
FEB 23<sup>RD</sup> & MAR 3<sup>RD</sup>  
TWO EVENINGS

**REFEREE COACH LEVEL 2**  
TBC

**HEAD TO: [MYACCOUNT.RUGBY.COM.AU](https://myaccount.rugby.com.au)**  
THEN: **LEARNING CENTRE**  
CLICK: **BROWSE LEARNING**  
SELECT: **REFEREE**  
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**FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT YOUR STATE MANAGER**

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