



FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
AUSTRALIA

Australian Officiating Development Schedule

January 2016 Extracts

Introduction

The Australian Officiating Development Schedule (AODS) is the foundation document for match officiating in Australia. It outlines the career pathways and professional development of all match officials including all Football & Futsal Referees, Assessors & Instructors.

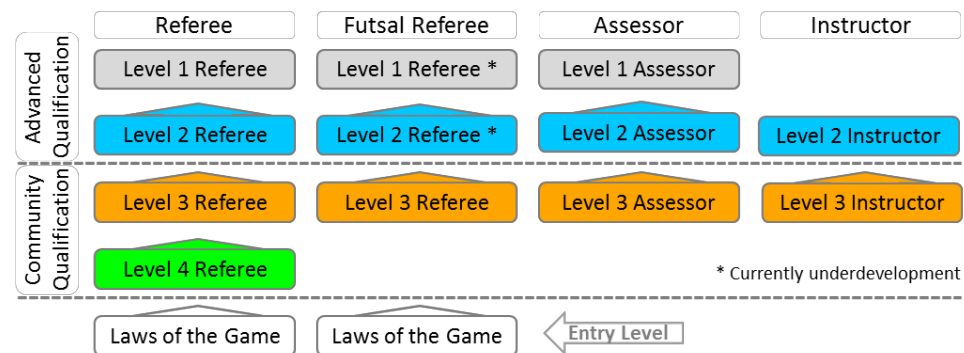
- > Referees are a vital part of the sport and their continued development is essential to the continued growth of the game.
- > Assessors are the coaches of referees. By improving the development of our assessors we can improve the quality of our referees.
- > Instructors present our training programs around Australia. All training programs should be delivered by qualified instructors.
- > All match officials require a thorough knowledge of the Laws of the Game and must ensure that their knowledge is both current and suitable for the level of football they are officiating. This knowledge must also be supplemented by the Laws being consistently interpreted.
- > “Referees need to understand the role they play as game facilitators and not just law enforcers. Referees need to create an open dialogue with players and club representatives, explaining decisions and acknowledging that like players, they also make mistakes.” (FFA Whole of Football Plan 2015)
- > We need to foster an environment of respect and cooperation between all of the sports participants – players, match officials, team officials, club members and spectators. As the sports ‘people in the middle’ referees need to understand that they do not referee football but referee people.
- > To assist referees to develop the formal training programs must be complemented through effectual mentoring, positive feedback and assessments by qualified and competent assessors.
- > All referees – whether they are a FIFA referee, referee in the Hyundai A-League or referee in the Westfield W-League start as a Level 4 Referee and move up the pathway ultimately reaching Level 1 Referee.
- > Referees can officiate in both football (11 v 11) and Futsal competitions.

Pathways

There are two streams in the match official qualification structure:

- Community officials working within local/regional amateur football competitions.
- Advanced officials working within regional, state and national competitions.

Below is a diagrammatic representation of the pathways for Referees, Assessor and Instructors.



Qualifications

Below is a summary of the current qualifications. Note that the information relates to when an individual initially gains a qualification.

Qualification	Training Program Details		Minimum Age**
	Length*	Law Exam	
Laws of the Game	variable	Yes - 70% pass	none
Level 4 Referee	8 hours		13 years
Level 3 Referee	8 hours	Yes - 70% pass	16 years
Level 2 (Theory) Referee	8 hours	Yes - 80% pass	18 years
Level 2 Referee	1 season		18 years
Level 1 (Theory) Referee	8 hours	Yes - 85% pass	18 years
Level 1 Referee	1 season (min)		18 years
Futsal Laws of the Game	8 hours	Yes - 70% pass	none
Level 3 Futsal Referee	8 hours		13 years
Level 3 Assessor	8 hours	Yes - 70% pass	18 years
Level 2 Assessor	12 hours	Yes - 80% pass	18 years
Level 1 Assessor	16 hours	Yes - 85% pass	21 years
Level 3 Instructor	6 hours		18 years
Level 2 Instructor	12 hours	Yes - 85% pass	21 years

* Program length is indicative only

** Minimum age is calculated from the commencement date of the program



Registering for a training program

All courses and qualifications are managed through *MyFootballClub*. Participants can search for available courses and register to attend via [MyFootballClub](#).

Timeframe for completion

Programs must be completed within two years from the start of the program.

Obtaining a qualification

When a participant successfully completes a training program they are granted qualification for a period of four years. FFA reserves the right to cancel, refuse to qualify or revalidate any qualification.

The qualification expiration date is calculated from the first day of the training program. All qualifications expire on 31 December.

For example if a Level 2 Referee program commences on 12 April 2015 then qualification expiration date is 31 December 2018.

Revalidating a qualification

All Match official qualifications need to be revalidated every four years.

If you revalidate a qualification that is due to expire on 31 December 2015 then its new expiration date will be 31 December 2019.

During that period the match official needs to be active during at least two of the four years and also undertake various activities during those active years. The activities are to be recorded in the Official's Log located in the back of FFA's *Laws of the Game* publication.

During the final year of the qualification all match officials (excluding Level 4 Referees) must also successfully pass a Laws of the Game examination.

All revalidation requirements must be completed before the expiration date, otherwise the qualification expires.

Expired qualifications cannot be reactivated and the individual will need to undertake the appropriate level of training program to regain the qualification.

Revalidation activities

The following table outlines the activities that are required to be undertaken each year in which the official is active.

Qualification	Active Officiating (per year)	Attend Formal Coaching Sessions (per year)	Laws of the Game Exam*	Match Assessments (per year)
Level 4 Referee	4 matches	1 time	Refer Page 2	Not required
Level 3 Referee	6 matches	1 time		1 match assessment
Level 3 Futsal Referee	6 matches	1 time		
Level 2 (Theory) Referee	6 matches	4 times		1 match assessment
Level 2 Referee	8 matches	4 times		1 match assessment
Level 1 (Theory) Referee	8 matches	4 times		1 match assessment
Level 1 Referee	10 matches	4 times		1 match assessment
Level 3 Assessor	4 matches	3 times		1 match report
Level 2 Assessor	6 matches	4 times		1 match report
Level 1 Assessor	8 matches	4 times		1 match report
Level 3 Instructor**	1 day of course instruction	3 times		
Level 2 Instructor	2 days of course instruction	4 times		

* Examinations must be undertaken during the final year of a qualification.

** Level 3 Instructor is maintained providing they maintain their assessor qualification.

Officials Log

The log is an essential tool in the process to revalidate qualification. Officials should record their activities. Summarise matches officiated instead of listing every single match unless they were of significance (e.g. finals series matches, cup finals, national competition or national tournament matches, etc.).

The Officials Log is available in FFA's *Laws of the Game* publication.

Following are some guidelines regarding each activity that is part of the process to revalidate qualification.

Active Officiating

These hours reflect the nominal hours for each year in which the individual is active as a match official.

Referees Actively officiating in competition matches. This includes being an Assistant Referee but not as a fourth official.

Assessor Actively assessing in competition matches (or other matches approved by FFA).

Instructor The time spent on presenting units on FFA-approved training programs. These units can be conducted over multiple training programs and can include examinations but not match assessments.

Attend Formal Coaching Sessions

These are coaching sessions that involve tactical and technical education, updates to Laws of the Game, interpretations of the Laws, etc. This also includes any formal pre-season seminar conducted by a recognised referee organisation.

Laws of the Game Examination

During the last year of a match official's qualification they must be deemed competent in their knowledge of the Laws of the Game by undertaking a FFA-provided examination. This can ideally be done as part of the annual pre-season seminar conducted by most recognised referee organisations.

Match Assessments

During the period of an active match officials qualification it is important to ensure that the official is competent to officiate (including assessors) in matches. The standard of match must be equivalent to the level of qualification. For example a Level 1 Referee must be deemed competent in a match at the top level of their State/Territory competition or competition approved by FFA.

If a referee is deemed to be not competent at the level of qualification they may be recommended to have an alternate level of qualification granted that equates to the level of competition at which they are competent to officiate.

Laws of the Game examinations

The aim is to ensure that our referees, assessors and instructors have a suitable knowledge of the Laws depending on the level at which they are involved.

The following table outlines the structure of the examinations - including number of questions/incidents and the maximum time allowed - used during the training programs (i.e. gaining the qualification) and the revalidation process for a qualification.

The revalidation examinations should be conducted as part of a referee organisation's pre-season seminar.

Examinations are to be conducted in the following order:

- a. Video incidents
- b. Written responses
- c. Multiple choice questions

Participants have a maximum of three attempts at completing an examination. If after the third attempt a participant has not met the level required to be deemed competent the participant will be required to undertake the program again.

The following examination structure is effective from the commencement of any new training program.

Where a training program is currently underway - including any re-attempts of examinations - the current examination structure and protocols for that program shall remain in place.

Number of attempts

Participants have a maximum of three attempts to complete a Laws of the Game examination as part of either a training program or revalidation of a qualification. If after the third attempt a participant has not met the level required to be deemed competent the participant will be required to undertake the program again.

- Second examination attempt can be undertaken a minimum of 28 days following the first attempt.
- Third examination attempt can be undertaken a minimum of 56 days following the second attempt.

Level 4 Referee

This training program is aimed at referees of junior and youth matches and includes theory and practical sessions.

To attend a course	Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be 13 years of age at the commencement of the training program; and• be currently registered with FFA; and• have successfully completed the online Laws of the Game module within the last two years.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring on one match as an assistant referee and one match as a referee.
To renew the qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referee 4 matches per year; and• Attend 1 formal education session per year; and• Be deemed competent to referee in the appropriate level of matches.

Level 3 Referee

This training program is aimed at referees of junior matches to lower divisions of adult football and includes both theory and practical components.

To attend a course	Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 16 years old at the commencement of the training program; and• be currently registered with FFA as a referee; and• hold current Level 4 Referee qualification; and• exhibit the competencies required of a Level 4 Referee.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Laws of the Game assessments on course.• One match as a referee and one match as an assistant referee.
To renew the qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass the Laws of the Game examinations; and• Referee 4 matches per year; and• Attend 1 formal education session per year; and• Be deemed competent to referee in the appropriate level of matches.

Level 2 Referee

The Level 2 Referee qualification is composed of two components:

Theory Includes all classroom units and the Laws of the Game examinations.

Practical Includes practical match assessments, mentoring a colleague (Level 1 Referee only) and the completion of the program folder.

This training program is aimed at referees up to the second-top level of senior competition in their State, Territory or region.

The program is designed to be conducted over one full season and includes theory and practical components. The theory component consists of 8 hours of classroom-based sessions.

Participants may decide to just complete the theory component of the program.

To attend a course

To undertake the **Theory** component participants must:

- be a at least 18 years old at the commencement of the training program; and
- hold current Level 3 Referee qualification.

To undertake the **Practical** component participants must:

- hold current Level 2 (Theory) Referee qualification.

Assessments

- Complete the Laws of the Game assessments on course.
- Two matches as a referee and one match as an assistant referee.
- Review of your program folder by your Member Federation.

To renew the qualification

- Pass the Laws of the Game examinations; and
- Referee 6 matches (Theory) or 8 matches (Practical) per year; and
- Attend 4 formal education sessions per year; and
- Be deemed competent to referee in the appropriate level of matches.



Level 1 Referee

The Level 1 Referee qualification is composed of two components:

Theory Includes all classroom units and the Laws of the Game examinations.

Practical Includes practical match assessments, mentoring a colleague and the completion of the program folder.

This training program is aimed at referees up to PS4 National Premier League Men's competition or at national level.

The program is designed to be conducted over a minimum of one full season and includes theory and practical components. The theory component consists of 8 hours of classroom-based sessions.

Participants may decide to just complete the theory component of the program.

To attend a course

To undertake the **Theory** component participants must:

- be a at least 18 years old at the commencement of the training program; and
- hold current Level 2 (Theory) Referee qualification; and
- hold current Level 3 Assessor qualification.

To undertake the **Practical** component participants must:

- hold both current Level 2 Referee and Level 1 (Theory) Referee qualifications.

Assessments

- Complete the Laws of the Game assessments on course.
- Two matches as a referee in the PS4 National Premier League.
- Review of your program folder by your Member Federation and by FFA.

To renew the qualification

- Pass the Laws of the Game examinations; and
- Referee 8 matches (Theory) or 10 matches (Practical) per year; and
- Attend 4 formal education sessions per year; and
- Be deemed competent to referee in the appropriate level of matches.



Futsal Laws of the Game

The Futsal Laws of the Game provides a basic introduction to Futsal's Laws and interpretations. It includes a written theory examination.

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| To attend a course | • Not applicable. |
| Assessments | • Not applicable |
| To renew the qualification | • This qualification cannot be revalidated. |

Level 3 Futsal Referee

This program includes both theory and practical components.

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| To attend a course | Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be 13 years of age at the commencement of the training program; and• have successfully completed the <i>Futsal Laws of the Game</i> within the last two years. |
| Assessments | • Mentoring on two matches as a referee. |
| To renew the qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referee 6 matches per year; and• Attend 1 formal education session per year; and• Be deemed competent to referee in the appropriate level of matches. |



Level 3 Assessor

These assessors are qualified to coach referees of junior matches to lower divisions of adult matches.

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| To attend a course | Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 18 years old; and• hold current Level 3 Referee (or higher level) qualification; and• have at least two years active experience as an accredited referee. |
| Assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Laws of the Game assessments on course.• Mentoring on one match as an assessor as part of the program |
| To renew the qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>Form 004 - Application for Revalidation of Assessor Qualification</i>• Pass the Laws of the Game examinations; and• Assess 4 matches per year; and• Attend 3 formal education sessions per year; and• Be deemed competent to assess in the appropriate level of matches. |

Level 2 Assessor

These Assessors are qualified to coach referees up to the second-top level of senior football in their State, Territory or region.

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| To attend a course | Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 18 years old; and• hold current Level 3 Assessor qualification; and• have had at least four years active experience as a referee. |
| Assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Laws of the Game examinations on course.• One 'live' match and one 'video' match as an assessor. |
| To renew the qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>Form 004 - Application for Revalidation of Assessor Qualification</i>• Complete the <i>Level 1 and 2 Assessor Refresher</i> course; and• Assess 6 matches per year; and• Attend 4 formal education sessions per year; and• Be deemed competent to assess in the appropriate level of matches. |

Level 1 Assessor

These assessors are qualified to coach referees up to elite level.

To attend a course	Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 21 years old; and• hold current Level 2 Assessor qualification for at least two years and been actively assessing during that period; and• have had at least four years active experience as a senior referee; and
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Laws of the Game examinations on course.• One 'live' match and one 'video' match as an assessor.
To renew the qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>Form 004 - Application for Revalidation of Assessor Qualification</i>• Complete the <i>Level 1 and 2 Assessor Refresher</i> course; and• Assess 8 matches per year; and• Attend 4 formal education sessions per year; and• Be deemed competent to assess in the appropriate level of matches.

Level 3 Instructor

These instructors can conduct community stream training programs.

To attend a course	Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 18 years old; and• hold current Level 3 Assessor qualification (or higher) and have held it for at least two years.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no formal assessment process to gain this qualification.
To renew the qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>Form 005 - Application for Revalidation of Instructor Qualification</i>• Maintain their assessor qualification; and• Instruct 1 day of FFA training programs; and• Attend 3 formal education sessions per year; and• Be deemed competent to present the appropriate level of programs.

Level 2 Instructor

These instructors can conduct Level 2 Referee and Assessor training programs.

To attend a course	Participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be at least 21 years old; and• hold current Level 3 Assessor (or higher) qualification; and• hold current Level 3 Instructor qualification; and• have a reasonable level of experience as an active Referee.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Laws of the Game examinations on course.• Present two theory and one practical session on topics provided.
To renew the qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>Form 005 - Application for Revalidation of Instructor Qualification</i>• Maintain their assessor qualification; and• Instruct 2 days of FFA training programs; and• Attend 4 formal education sessions per year; and• Be deemed competent to present the appropriate level of programs.

Conclusion

- > The sport of football can be influenced by the standard of officiating and potential negative influence on the way a game is played.
- > *“To improve retention, recruitment and the culture surrounding referees we need to ensure our referees are highly trained and educated.” (FFA Whole of Football Plan 2015)*
- > Along similar lines to the player coaching statement “Better coaches = Better players” we can also state that better assessors will mean better referees.
- > *“Football needs to promote the benefits of being a referee and provide a clear pathway to the very top of the game ...” (FFA Whole of Football Plan 2015)*



This document contains extracts from the full version of the Australian Officiating Development Schedule which can be viewed from the Get Involved - Refereeing section of the FFA website - www.ffa.com.au