



The R Factor June/July '19

UPCOMING EVENTS

The finals are not very far away now, as teams start to become anxious and search for those crucial points to get them into the finals series. As referees, it's important we prepare physically and mentally for these upcoming crunch matches. The fitness tests held this week will be a good measure of how you have improved over the course of the season. Before you take the field, maybe take a look at the table and see where the teams stand. It is important to understand the pressure they are under and what is at stake for that match.

This issue of the R Factor, we highlight a number of referees

who have told their story as part of NSW Football's Referee Recognition week. We also congratulate a number of referees on their recent achievements.

Please take note of the upcoming coaching sessions to be held ahead of the finals series. These will be important sessions to take on some last minute coaching, revise the procedures for determining the outcome of the match, and obtain information specific to competitions.

As always, we wish you all the best for your refereeing.

CB

August 2019

5th – Premier Competition Referees Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

7th – Zone League Coaching, 6pm @ LMRFF

31st – Northern League One Youth Competition Grand Final – Johnston Park, West Wallsend

September 2019

1st – WPL Competition Grand Final – Rockwell Automation Park, Weston

7th – NPL NSW Youth Grand Finals – Darling Street Oval, Hamilton

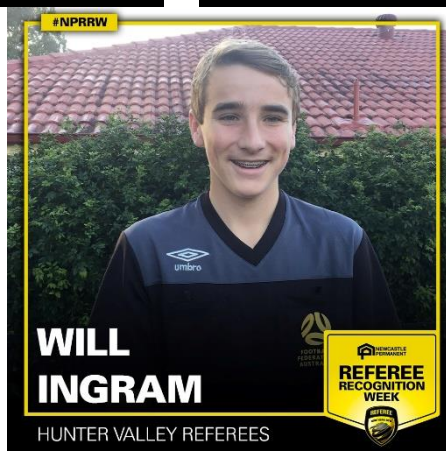
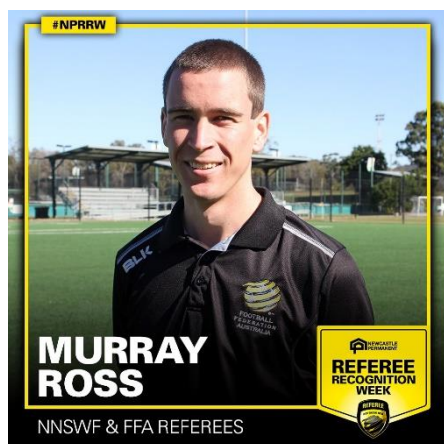
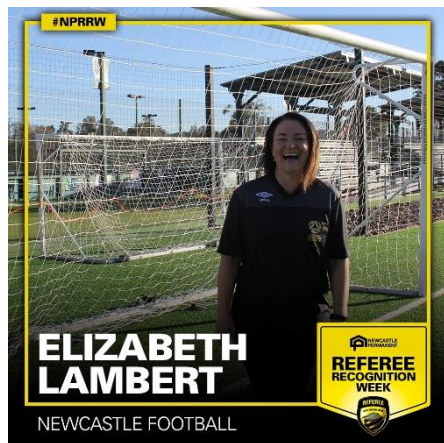
8th – Northern League One Senior Grand Finals – Jack McLaughlin Oval, Edgeworth

14th / 15th (TBC) – NPL NSW Senior Grand Final – Magic Park, Broadmeadow

Referee Recognition Week - Stories

As part of referee recognition week, Northern NSW Football caught up with several referees from the state.

Check out their stories!



First Touch Football Supplies 2019 Boys State Championships

The NNSWF Boys' Talented Official Program (TOP) Camp, was held in conjunction with the NNSWF Boys' State Championships in early June.

The sixteen match officials who participated in the camp were:

- Joshua Attard (Northern Inland)
- Renaldo Caponecchia (NNSWF)
- Samuel Donald (Macquarie)
- Layton Farley (NNSWF)
- Timothy Hamilton (Hunter Valley)
- Matthew Heathcote (NNSWF)
- Liam Kalanj (North Coast)
- Joshua Kerr (North Coast)
- Joshua Mills (Newcastle)
- Joseph Morris (NNSWF)
- Casey Rainger (Northern Inland)
- William Sawyer (Mid North Coast)
- Jackson Stewart (Hunter Valley)
- Luke Walker (North Coast)
- Brandon Wallace (Mid North Coast)
- Jackson Yates (Far North Coast)

All of these referees can be very proud of the way in which they were so willing to listen, learn, take on board advice and strive to be better match officials. Their performances on the park at the State Championships improved as the weekend progressed, confirming that they all responded positively to the coaching and support they were given.

Each night, the referees completed coaching sessions on topics identified prior to the camp, and then identified by the coaching team based on incidents in matches completed. Some of the topics included:

- Better communication as match officials
- Optimal angles, movement and positioning
- The difference between DOGSO (denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity) and SPA (stopping a promising attack)
- Judging the differences between careless fouls, reckless fouls and fouls involving the use of excessive force
- Advantage vs possession
- Ceremonial or formal free kick procedures



The two referees of the tournament were:

- Joe Morris (NNSWF) – Referee of the Under 12 Tournament
- Layton Farley (NNSWF) – Referee of the Under 11 Tournament

The camp was rewarding for all, with all of the young referees improving their individual standard of officiating as the camp progressed. The camp also helped identify a number of referees who have the ability to continue advancement to elite levels of officiating.

NNSWF will soon extend invitations to a number of the talented young match officials who attended this TOP Camp and previous ones, to be a part of the new NNSWF Youth Referee Academy, in order to receive more specialized coaching and more opportunities to advance to a higher level of officiating.

Recent Referee Achievements

Congratulations to **Adam Browne** on making his Northern NSW NPL first grade debut, in a match between Charlestown and Valentine.

Further congratulations to **Mitch Lyons**, **Brendan Fry**, **Matt Guest** and **Keegan Pulik** on making their Northern League One first grade debuts in recent weeks.

Samantha Newell and **Connor Markovich** have recently been refereeing at the Westfield Girls National Championships in Coffs Harbour.

Zac Campbell and **Keegan Pulik** have been selected to officiate at the Boys National Championships later in the year.

The FFA Cup has progressed to the Round of 32. Maitland FC take on the Central Coast Mariners, with the refereeing team consisting of **Stephen Laurie**, **Ryan Gallagher**, **Ellie Hayes** and **Andrew Higgins**. **James Cleal** has been appointed as an assistant on the match between Mount Druitt Rangers and Manly United.



Recent Disciplinary Issues

Over the last few months, there have been serious offences that have been committed by players, team officials and spectators against match officials in the NNSW Football Premier Competitions and Interdistrict Zone League Competitions.

The offences have included:

- Strong verbal abuse and threats made towards match officials
- Social media bullying
- Intimidation of referees
- Physical altercations with referees.

With adequate reporting from the match officials on the games, NNSW Football are able to appropriately sanction those who have offended. Report writing has been covered at past coaching nights, and resources are available if you need assistance.

Our Committee has been keeping in contact with a number of referees affected by these serious incidents, and has been reassured by the response from the NNSW Football Referee Department and Disciplinary Committee who have taken strong action. Recent actions taken have seen those charged with breaching the Code of Conduct receiving lengthy suspensions and fines. Our Committee and NNSW Referees Department have been continually updating the referees involved in the matters.

While we strive to make ourselves aware of the big issues, if you become the target of serious match official abuse that you need to report but are not sure how, reach out to someone for help. Whether it be the first grade referee on the day, a senior referee you know, one of the referee coaches, or the NNSW Referee Department. These are all people willing to help.

