



Welcome to this one hundredth and third edition of **“The Referee”**, the newsletter for all NSW State League Football Referees. This newsletter will enable our branch to communicate directly with our members and will cover issues and areas of interest to all referees. We wish to ensure that all information, educational resources and opportunities that our branch provides for referees finds its way to those who are likely to benefit most – and that’s you

Congratulations to Christian Verdicchio on his 300th Senior match between Sydney United 58 and Sydney Olympic on Easter Monday 18th April 2022 at the Sydney United Sports Centre. Christian joined the NSWSLFR in 2021 after refereeing at the top level in South Australia for many years.



LEGEA

To do for NSWSLFR members in May 2022:

1. [Review the 2021/22 LOTG changes](#)
2. [Make yourself available for competition matches](#)
3. Register on the new FNSW Competition System – Dribl
4. Attend training every week in 2022 – Venue: Potts Park, Yagoona
5. Attend the April General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing at 7.30 pm

Officials' Skills: Managing Awareness - Dissent

There are some very important questions that officials must ask themselves in relation to witnessing and dealing with both verbal and visual dissent at every level of the game:

- Are we as officials aware as to why it is happening?
- As the game continues, does it remain constant?
- Does it not happen? If so, are we aware why?
- Does it get gradually worse during the game? If so, why?
- Are we as officials aware that dissent dealt with early and visually (with the blame squarely on the players) can help our control?
- Knowing the difference between dissent and frustration from players and coaches. Officials must calmly deal with both.

In this clip (link below), the referee correctly awards the penalty kick and explains to the group of players that no one can effectively communicate with so many talking at once. His calm demeanour and awareness of being in control and how this is portrayed helps him get through the difficult situation.

<https://youtu.be/Mn26ufC5l9g>

As we can see, there are many areas in which an official must be prepared to utilise their personality and softer management skills in game control. In conjunction with technical updates and discussion, these areas are crucial for the further development of officials, not only in FNSW Competition matches but at every level.

Modified and adapted from an article in the Profession Referee Organisation – 13th March 2021

Embracing Your Role in a Team of Officials

Are you a good team member? Do you complain about a lack of refereeing time?

Successful officials make sacrifices. Yet, one of the most challenging sacrifices for some refereeing is accepting their role within the team. The role of an official can frequently change due to injuries, shake-ups, changes in refereeing style, an appointment officer's preferences, or a high level of performance by a new colleague. Whether you are more often acting as a 4th official or have your appointments significantly reduced, you can have difficulty adjusting to your new role.

After all, you worked so hard to build your skills and hone your refereeing ability. You are talented and were a consistent performer in the past. You officiated a lot better than most of your colleagues in previous seasons. You feel you deserve more appointments or earned the right to referee. You may even question why a colleague receives more fixtures than you. You may think your appointments officer is unfair or has something against you personally.

Not only does a negative attitude hurt your performance, but it also stirs negative energy throughout your team of officials. Negative attitudes hurt the team and worsen your standing in an observer's eyes. Anyway, no referee has ever complained their way to the top. So, what is the resolution?

Firstly, even though your role has changed, there are several ways you can still contribute to the team's success and simultaneously improve your officiating:

1. Learn by watching – You can develop your game and better understand strategy by watching others referee.

2. Push your colleagues – When you push your limits in training, you push your colleagues to become better. This mentality fosters teamwork and cohesion.
3. Hone your skills – Even though you have less officiating time, you can take advantage of the opportunities when training and reading the Laws of The Game to develop your skills through focused repetition.
4. Showcase your abilities – Each game you're appointed to, you have the opportunity to display your skills, work ethic, and positive mindset, possibly resulting in more refereeing time.
5. Contribute to teamwork – Just as negativity infects an officiating team's morale, positivity can improve the collective team mindset.

Always keep in mind that a team's success results from all referees pulling in the same direction towards a common goal.

The Playing Perspective

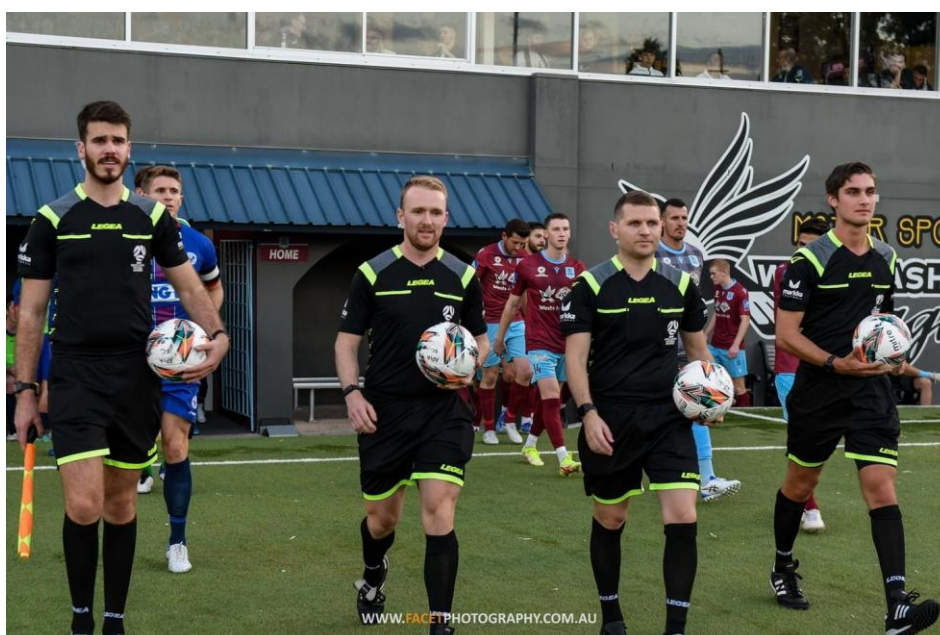
Basketball shooting guard Nik Stauskas. Stauskas entered the United States National Basketball Association League after being drafted No. 8 overall in the 2014 NBA Draft by the Kings. Stauskas found himself battling for playing minutes and never lived up to his potential as a 'rookie'.

Stauskas bounced around the league playing for eight different teams, which affected his effort and energy. In 2022, Stauskas contemplated retirement. However, after a 10-day successful stint in the NBA 'G' League, the Boston Celtics signed Stauskas to a two-year contract.

Stauskas has since decided to accept his role, contribute wherever he can and maintain a positive attitude.

"I just have a different appreciation now for being in this [situation], having this opportunity. Trying to make the most of it. If I'm not going to play, I'm going to be the first guy waving the towel, pumping everyone else up. For me, that's growth because that's something that I wasn't willing to do just a couple years ago in my first stint in the league." – Nik Stauskas, Basketball Shooting Guard.

Defining and accepting your role within the officiating team keeps your motivation high. You become a valuable team asset when you approach each appointment with a positive mentality.



Tip For Taking Advantage of Your Role in the Third Team:

It is easy to complain, but complaining does nothing to improve your circumstances. However, you can contribute to the refereeing team success in many ways.

Instead, work on a mindset to help you and your colleagues by compiling a list of how you can contribute to your team's success as a leader, a decision maker, or an assistant.

Read your list before training and commit yourself to be a team player.

Modified and adapted from an article in The Third Team Blog by Nathan Sherratt – April 2022

2021 -2022 Laws of the Game Quiz

A thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game is an essential quality of a good referee. All referees should regularly review their Laws of the Game book to ensure they are correctly interpreting and applying them.

This monthly LOTG Quiz is highly recommended for all active referees and assessors and counts towards meeting part of the criteria for honour games consideration and annual awards. To reinforce your knowledge, you are encouraged to utilise your Laws of the Game Book to assist in answering the quiz questions. All quiz questions are based on the new 2021/2022 IFAB LOTG.

Click Here

Click on the "Click Here" button to complete the highly recommended monthly LOTG Quiz to test yourself on how well you know the laws.

April 2022 LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - D; 2 - B; 3 - C; 4 - A; 5 - B; 6 - D; 7 - A; 8 - C; 9 - B; 10 - D.

Save These Dates

6th May 2022 – General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing 7:30 pm.

3rd June 2022 – General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing 7:30 pm.



Blast From The Past - James Lewis



Member Since: 2005. Some notable Referee Career Highlights follow:

- 1999 - Refereed at the U/16 National Youth Titles
- 1999 - 2002- National Youth League Referee Panel
- 2001 - Refereed National Youth League Grand Final
- 2002 - Refereed National Youth League Grand Final
- 2002 - National League debut, Wollongong vs Football Kingz
- 2002 - 2004 - National League referee Panel (NSL)
- 2002- 2003, 2005 Refereed NBN Soccer League Grand Final
- 2002- 2003 - Northern NSW Referee of the year
- 2005 - A- League debut, Newcastle Jets Vs Perth Glory
- 2005 - A- League referee panel
- 2005 – 2020 - Many NPL level games, Finals and Grand Finals



Advice: After each and every match, you have done, think of the decisions you have made and ways that you could have done things better and smarter - there, is always room for improvement.

**Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member
and Newsletter Editor**

