PROCEDURES FOR BECOMING A REFEREE

Updated October 2026

ELIGIBILITY

a. An individual must be at least 13 years of age to become a registered match official;
b. An individual must have (or initiate) their own PlayFootball account (and FFA number);
c. An individual must have (or initiate) their own registration with the Football Australia Learning Centre;

STEPS

1. Create a free account as a Northern NSW Football Learner with E-Trainu (the company that looks after the online learning modules for Football Australia). This is also known as the Football Australia Learning Centre.

   Register with E-Trainu

   Note: Make sure you use your existing PlayFootball account details (if you have registered as a player, coach or volunteer previously).

   Note: If you are a new participant and have not registered in PlayFootball previously, you must create a PlayFootball account via the 'Register with E-Trainu' link shown above.

   Note: It will usually take 48 hours for the account to be set up by E-Trainu and for them to tell you its done.

2. After receiving confirmation that your account is set up, you will need to work through the online Laws of the Game modules. *There are six modules* – (i) ***Components and Equipment***; (ii) ***Participants***; (iii) ***Game Events***; (iv) ***Offences and Sanctions***; (v) ***Temporary Dismissals (Sin Bin)*** (this is not applicable in FFNC) and (vi) ***Additional Information***.

3. Once the above modules are complete, you will need to pay $33* to gain access to and complete the second theory component of the C3 Junior Football Match Official program which comprises *four modules* – (i) ***Match Control***, (ii) ***Positioning***, (iii) ***Technical Concepts*** and (iv) ***Game Management***.

4. You will then be able to register online on E-Trainu or via the Referee Course Dates page on the Northern NSW Football website for whichever face to face C3 Junior Football Referee Course you wish to attend and pay online at the same time the $120* (plus a small credit card fee) for all the learning, clothing, equipment, registration and insurance to start refereeing in 2027 – the clothing and equipment a participant gets is a green shirt (new referee), shorts, socks, whistle, one flag, set of cards, notebook, and coin.

5. You will be required to attend a three hour, face to face C3 Junior Football Match Official Practical Workshop.

OVERVIEW

The two payments which total $153* must be made (via use of a credit card) to undertake the theory component of what is called the C3 Junior Football Match Official program. The $153* (all distributed to NNSWF and FA), covers the access to the C3 program and a 'Starter Pack' of match official clothing (being a Green Shirt, Black shorts and black socks), equipment (being one Flag, Red/Yellow Card set and whistle), MO registration, including the applicable component of insurance coverage. The $153* must be paid in the first instance by the person themselves. FFNC will reimburse $153* to a new match official once they complete their accreditation, then register with FFNC and after they have (1) lodged receipts of course costs and (2) officiated at least ten (10) fixtures as a centre or twenty (20) fixtures as an Assistant Referee in 2027.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Northern NSW Football Regional Referee Education & Development Officer

Mark Carter via mcarter@northernnswfootball.com.au

**Costs applicable until 31st December 2026. Costs to be updated for 2027 in due course,*