

How to Become A Referee - FAQ

Where do I start?

Referee groups like the Adelaide Hills Referees are an ideal pathway for your initial training and development. We are affiliated with the FFSA and have access to qualified coaches, a state training and development coordinator and the only FIFA accredited qualifications in SA. Members are able to attend both state and local training and coaching programs and are mentored, coached and assessed by more experienced and appropriately qualified local referees.

What is the age requirement?

Junior referees must be 13 years old. Theoretically, it is possible to do the Laws of the Game (LOTG) course before this but appointments to matches cannot be made until the age requirement is met. We also encourage adults to consider joining our ranks. It is great for fitness and is an excellent way of being involved in our great game.

How are Appointments determined?

An Appointments Coordinator sets the roster for each week of the AHJSA competition after undertaking the arduous task of balancing any club affiliations, playing commitments, family responsibilities, travel considerations, referee age and experience and other special issues. We also supply referees for some Collegiate League matches in the Hills as well as some FFA and JPL Sunday matches. We try to give referees as many matches as possible within the limits set by the factors listed above. Appointments are generally advised about 5 days in advance.

How often do referees train?

Referees registered with the Adelaide Hills are automatically registered with the FFSA. They have full access to a wide range of training and coaching opportunities. FFSA Referees training and coaching sessions are currently held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons/evenings at Santos Stadium. More detailed information is available from the Hills Training and Development team and via the FFSA website at <http://www.ffsa.com.au/referees/>

Hills referees develop their skills by attending local sessions, state tournaments and specialised FFSA programs. They are mentored and coached at their matches. Participation can lead to opportunities that are limited only by your commitment. The current FFSA Referee Operations Coordinator, South Australian "A" panel referee and "A League" Assistant Referee, Stephen Toth, started his career in the Hills.

A detailed program for Hills referee events will be available via the AHJSA website early in 2012.

How do I find out about courses?

There are many alternatives. Keep an eye on the Referee tab on the FFSA website (see above) and on the Referee information on this website.

Contact Nathan Magill, the FFSA Referee Development Officer at nathan.magill@ffsa.com.au

Contact me on my mobile 0404 118 985.

We are generally able to run at least one course Laws of the Game course leading into the Level 4 Junior Referee course per year locally.

What is the cost involved in becoming a referee?

You must register with the FFSA but there is a reduced rate for referees who officiate for AHJSA matches with the Adelaide Hill Referees Group. There is generally a discounted rate for early-bird registrations as well (e.g. before the end of the previous year). The initial Laws of the Game course costs \$80 and the first date set for in 2012 is February 12. Look at the FFSA website for updated information. Subsequent levels are at increasing cost but they also lead to increased opportunity for financial return.

In the past, the AHJSA and Hills Clubs have sponsored young Hills referees for some or all of the course costs provided they make certain commitments. Interested candidates should make their own enquiries re current possibilities.

Referees need to purchase a uniform, whistle, flags, cards, match sheets, watches and black boots although a green shirt identifying young people starting their career is supplied free of charge for their early matches. Once again, we seek to find ways of assisting referees with these expenses but this is subject to funds being available and is done on a year to year basis. Some materials are supplied at courses and you should enquire when you enrol before spending any money. Transport costs are a consideration although young referees generally enjoy the support of their parents in this area.

On the credit side, referees who are able to run two or more matches per week will clear around \$60 and upwards in match fees depending on the age group and league involved.

What else do I need?

You need to have your own email address and check it regularly. You need to be prepared to communicate well and manage your time effectively. You will be expected and assisted to act responsibly, independently and ethically to make firm and sometimes bold decisions.

What is in it for me?

Young referees pick up some extra cash for a worthwhile job. They gain life skills and can add a respected profession to their CV. Our senior officials have often been asked to provide references and are happy to do so. If you wish, refereeing can be pursued to a very high level. Several SA referees have been accredited for international FIFA competitions over the years, recently Airlie Keen and Craig Zetter (the state coach) and currently Paul Cetrangelo.

Although the money is nice, it should not be your main motivation. Refereeing is great for fitness and there is a good sense of camaraderie amongst the group. You are giving something back to the game and in particular to the juniors. It gives you great training in assertiveness and people management, develops quick thinking and practises alertness in intense situations. It's the best place at the ground to see some great games and football skills.

Peter van der Zwaag,

Training & Development Coordinator for the Adelaide Hills Referees Group.