South Australian Amateur Soccer League Inc

Club Referee Policy

Date Implemented	1st March 2025
Date Amended	February 2026
Policy to be reviewed	Annually

1. It is a condition of affiliation that **all Clubs** within the South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL), are required to register **at least one qualified CLUB REFEREE** per Reserve, C Team and Over 35 team fielded within SAASL. This includes single team clubs playing in single team divisions.

2. It is the responsibility of all Clubs affiliated with SAASL to comply with the Club Referee Policy and to ensure that their Club Referee meets the appropriate standards and complies with the Club Referees Code of Conduct. Any breach of this policy will result in a fine and/or disciplinary action being taken against both the Club and Club Referee by the SAASL.

3. **Failure to nominate at least one Club Referee per team by the closing date may result in all of the Club's fixtures being suspended/forfeited until they comply with the Club Referee Policy.**

4. A Club Referee is required to complete the training, as specified by SAASL, and register on Play Football. The League will then notify the Club and Club Referee once it confirms that they have completed all requirements. Club Referees are not to undertake the duties as a referee until notified by the League that all the requirements have been met.

5. Once they are registered Club Referees will be recognised as Official Referees by the League and will be given the same authority and recognition as a full Match Official with respect to SAASL sanctioned fixtures.

6. The closing date for Clubs to nominate their referees will be as advised by the League each year.

7. All Club Referees must have (SAASL) Club Referee accreditation as set out by the League prior to officiating in any SAASL fixture

8. A Club Referee must be registered on Play Football, and their identity verified by the Club Administrator prior to being approved by the League and prior to officiating any games. They must be available at all home fixtures to officiate their registered Club when required.

9. Returning Club Referees will be accepted but must be re-nominated every season by their respective Clubs on the SAASL Club Referee Nomination Form, complete the SAASL Club Referee Training conducted by Football SA, and meet the criteria as set by the League. The Club Referee registration is valid for only one year.

10. If an Official Referee is not appointed to a Reserve, C Team or Over 35's fixture by SAASL, it is the responsibility of the home Club to provide a registered Club Referee. The League will endeavour to notify Clubs in advance if their Club Referee will be required for home fixtures; however, this may not always be possible and it is the Club's responsibility to ensure a Club Referee is available for their home fixtures.

11. Club Referees can only officiate in their own home Club's Reserve, C Team or Over 35's fixtures and assist the Senior Match official when required. Club Referees are **not** to officiate in a Senior fixture, unless appointed by the League.

    a. Single Team Divisions may be required to use their Club Referee at all Senior fixtures.

b. Clubs will be responsible for payment of the home Club Referee's fees.

12. If an Official Referee is appointed to a Reserve, C Team or Over 35's fixture, the Official Referee will take priority and officiate the game over the Club Referee.

13. Club Referees may only register for one SAASL Club. Dual registration of Club Referees will not be permitted, unless approved by the League in accordance with Rule 14.

14. In exceptional circumstances, and at its sole discretion, the League may approve the following exemption

    a. When the home Club's registered Club Referee is unavailable for a match, and the away Club's referee is also not available, the home Club may seek the League's approval to use another Club's registered Club Referee.

    b. A Club Referee may register and officiate for only two (2) Clubs, being only one Club in the Saturday competition and one Club in the Sunday competition.

    c. A Club Referee cannot officiate for two Clubs within the same division.

    d. This exemption to Rule 13 is only applicable where the Club has a registered Club Referee that is not available and has complied with this policy.

    e. The League may sanction any Club that uses the exemption to rule 13 to seek an unfair advantage or to circumvent their responsibilities under this Club Referee policy.

15. As part of the policy, ALL Club Referees will be encouraged to continue their personal development and will be supported in the program by the League. Refer to Rule 23, Referee Incentive Program.

16. A Club Referee must wear the official SAASL Club Referee shirt provided by the League when officiating in any fixture or when assisting the Referee in a Senior fixture.
    a. Club Referees are not permitted to wear any other Official Referee uniform at any time, unless prior approval is provided by the League.

    b. Any Club Referee reported to be in breach of Rule 16(a) may be subject to sanctions, including deregistration, and the Club will be subject to sanctions as determined by the League.

17. If a Club Referee cannot verify their accreditation, the fixture must be played, and a protest may be lodged in writing to the League within 24 hours of the completion of the fixture.

18. If a home Club Referee is not available, the match can be officiated by a registered Club Referee from the Away Club or as permitted under rule 13.

19. If a fixture is not played due to the failure of the home Club to provide a Club Referee or the Club permits an unregistered Club Referee to officiate, the Home Club will forfeit the fixture.

20. If a fixture is played and the Home Club is found to have breached any part of the Club Referee policy, or the League Championship Rules in relation to Referees, the Home Club will be fined. Subsequent breaches will result in the Club being sanctioned by the League.

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR CLUB REFEREES

21. **ALL Club Referees**, must:

    a. Be nominated by their Club on the Club Referee Nomination Form.

    b. Register on the "Play Football" Registration system and complete the registration including their WWCC (Working with Children Check).

    c. Complete the SAASL Club Referee Training course for the season, including:

        i. the Laws of the Game (online)

        ii. the FSA Level 4 Certificate (in person) by attending the Referees practical training session

d. Complete any other requirements for registration as a Club Referee.

e. Be confirmed as registered by the League and comply with the Rules as set under this policy, the Club Referee Code of Conduct, the League Championship Rules, Cup Rules and the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

f. Where a Club Referee is claiming formal Referee accreditation, and if that accreditation is current and recognised by Football SA, the League will advise the Club and Club Referee of the next steps required for that person to complete their registration and be approved as a Club Referee.

22. **Match Day requirements (Dribl App)**

a. Club Referees must have their home Club assign them on the Dribl App as a non-accredited Referee prior to the match.

b. On Completion of the match, the Club Referee will provide details of the yellow/red cards, goal scorers and injuries to the home Club Team Manager and/or Coach, who will enter the results onto the Dribl App. This needs to be completed prior to 7pm on the day of the Match.

c. Results entered late on the Dribl System will result in the home Club being fined or sanctioned as per the nominated fines.

23. **REFEREE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

To promote the development of Club Referees and to encourage their progression to become a SAASL Referee, the League has established the Referee Incentive Program.

When Club Referees continue to develop through the recognised FSA Referees Accreditation process, and take appointments exclusively for one full Season in SAASL (Saturday and/or Sunday) competitions, the following incentives may be applied for:

a. the Club can apply for $600 incentive, and

b. the Club Referee can apply for $400 incentive.

c. The Club and the Referee must jointly apply to be eligible.

Incentives will only be paid once per Club Referee per Club. The incentives are only available to new Club Referees who have become a Club Referee or Referee through the Club Referee program.

24. The Club Referee Policy will be reviewed by the League and updated prior to the commencement of each season.

25. SAASL will make any determination on the interpretation of any part of this policy and reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

26. SAASL will be providing additional Club Referee training through the Football SA accredited pathways. Club Referees wishing to participate in this training should register their interest with the SAASL office.

Signed SAASL President

23/2/2026

Date

M Pearson

Signed SAASL Business Manager

24/02/26

Date