



FOOTBALL
AUSTRALIA

M-REF 3.0

MODERN REFEREE EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

March 2026

EDUCATION PATHWAY

COMMUNITY			TALENT					
								
Laws of the game	Junior Football Match Official	Senior Football Match Official	Emerging Education	Emerging Assistant Referee	Emerging Referee	Advance Education	Advance Assistant Referee	Advance Referee
								
Community Educator	Community Referee Coach – Junior	Community Referee Coach – Senior	Emerging Referee Coach	Emerging Educator		Advance Referee Coach	Advance Educator	



COMMUNITY

COURSE TYPES – ON FIELD	Laws of the Game (LOTG)	Junior Football Match Official (JFMO)	Senior Football Match Official (SFMO)	
Minimum Age	10 years	13 years	16 years	18 years
Pre-requisites	—	> Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year	> Hold current JFMO qualification and is competent at that level >Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year	> Laws of the Game completed within the last two years > Football playing experience
Online Course	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face to Face Event	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measurables	Successfully completed all modules	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee and Assistant Referee at the appropriate level.		
YEARLY REVALIDATION (CPD Points)				
Commences the following season after completing your accreditation				
Laws of the Game Update	—	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Revalidation Quiz	—	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Tutorial	—	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Total CPD Points	—	30	30	30
Games	—	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee and Assistant Referee at the appropriate level.		
<p>All match officials must be registered with Football Australia to obtain and maintain their accreditation.</p> <p>If your account shows no activity for one full season, it will automatically move into extended maintenance for the following two years. After that period, your qualification will expire.</p> <p>To keep your accreditation current, all registered match officials must maintain an active Learning Centre account and complete the required revalidation package.</p>				

COMMUNITY

COURSE TYPES – OFF FIELD	Community Referee Coach – Junior (CRC-J)	Community Referee Coach – Senior (CRC-S)	Community Educator
Minimum Age	16 years	18 years	18 years
Pre-requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a current JFMO qualification with at least two years of active experience > successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a current SFMO qualification with at least two years of active experience > successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a current SFMO qualification with at least two years of active experience > successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year
Online Course	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Face to Face Event	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Measurables	Demonstrates competence in mentoring Junior Match Officials by providing guidance, feedback, and support over a season.	Demonstrates competence in coaching Senior Match Officials by providing constructive feedback, and support tailored to their development needs over a season.	Effectively delivers engaging courses that align with Football Australia’s teaching methodology, demonstrating adaptability to the needs of the modern learner.
YEARLY REVALIDATION (CPD Points)			
Commences the following season after completing your accreditation			
Laws of the Game Update	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Revalidation Quiz	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Tutorial	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Total CPD Points	30	30	30
<p>All match officials must be registered with Football Australia to obtain and maintain their accreditation.</p> <p>If your account shows no activity for one full season, it will automatically move into extended maintenance for the following two years. After that period, your qualification will expire.</p> <p>To keep your accreditation current, all registered match officials must maintain an active Learning Centre account and complete the required revalidation package.</p> <p><i>*Some courses will temporarily continue under the 2018 AODS structure. Bridging courses are available to support transition into M-Ref. Member Federation administrators should contact the Football Australia Community Manager for guidance.</i></p>			

TALENT

COURSE TYPES – ON FIELD	Emerging Education	Emerging Assistant Referee	Emerging Referee
Minimum Age	17 years	—	—
Pre-requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a current SFMO qualification with at least one year of active, competent experience at that level > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	To complete the practical Assistant Referee component, participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a valid Emerging Education qualification. > be deemed competent to officiate at the competition listed below in the role of an Assistant Referee 	To complete the practical Referee component, participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a valid Emerging Education and Emerging Assistant Referee qualification. > be deemed competent to officiate at the competition listed below in the role of a Referee
Online Course	Yes*	—	—
Face to Face Event	Yes*	Min. 2 matches	Min. 2 matches
Standard of match	—	Member Federation Competitions: Men’s third-tier (metro) and top-tier (regional).	
Measurables	Successfully completed all modules	Demonstrate competence over a season as an Assistant Referee at the above level.	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee at the above level.
YEARLY REVALIDATION (CPD Points)			
Commences the following season after completing your accreditation			
Laws of the Game Update	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Revalidation Quiz	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Tutorial	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Total CPD Points	30	30	30
Games	—	Demonstrate competence over a season as an Assistant Referee at the above level.	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee at the above level.
<p>All match officials must be registered with Football Australia to obtain and maintain their accreditation.</p> <p>If your account shows no activity for one full season, it will automatically move into extended maintenance for the following two years. After that period, your qualification will expire.</p> <p>To keep your accreditation current, all registered match officials must maintain an active Learning Centre account and complete the required revalidation package.</p> <p><i>*Some courses will temporarily continue under the 2018 AODS structure. Bridging courses are available to support transition into M-Ref. Member Federation administrators should contact the Football Australia Community Manager for guidance.</i></p>			

TALENT

COURSE TYPES – ON FIELD	Advance Education	Advance Assistant Referee	Advance Referee
Minimum Age	18 years	—	—
Pre-requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a valid Emerging Education qualification. > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	To complete the practical Assistant Referee component, participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a valid Advance Education + Emerging Assistant Referee qualification > be deemed competent to officiate at the competition listed below in the role of an Assistant Referee 	To complete the practical Referee component, participants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > hold a valid Advance Education + Advance Assistant Referee + Emerging Referee qualification > be deemed competent to officiate at the competition listed below in the role of a Referee
Online Course	Yes*	—	—
Face to Face Event	Yes*	Min. 2 matches	Min. 2 matches
Standard of match	—	Member Federation Competition: Men’s first-tier (metro) i.e. National Premier League	
Measurables	Successfully completed all modules	Demonstrate competence over a season as an Assistant Referee at the above level.	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee at the above level.
YEARLY REVALIDATION (CPD Points)			
Commences the following season after completing your accreditation			
Laws of the Game Update	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Revalidation Quiz	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Tutorial	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Total CPD Points	30	30	30
Games	—	Demonstrate competence over a season as an Assistant Referee at the above level.	Demonstrate competence over a season as a Referee at the above level.
<p>All match officials must be registered with Football Australia to obtain and maintain their accreditation.</p> <p>If your account shows no activity for one full season, it will automatically move into extended maintenance for the following two years. After that period, your qualification will expire.</p> <p>To keep your accreditation current, all registered match officials must maintain an active Learning Centre account and complete the required revalidation package.</p> <p><i>*Some courses will temporarily continue under the 2018 AODS structure. Bridging courses are available to support transition into M-Ref. Member Federation administrators should contact the Football Australia Community Manager for guidance.</i></p>			



COURSE TYPES – OFF FIELD	Emerging Referee Coach	Advance Referee Coach	Emerging Educator	Advance Educator
Pre-requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a valid Emerging Education + Community Referee Coach – Senior qualification > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a valid Advance Education + Emerging Referee Coach qualification > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a valid Emerging Education + Emerging Referee Coach + Community Educator qualification > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hold a valid Advance Education + Advance Referee Coach + Emerging Educator qualification > Successfully completed the Laws of the Game (LOTG) update for the current year
Online Course	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Face to Face Event	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Measurables	Demonstrates competence in coaching Emerging Match Officials by providing constructive feedback, and support tailored to their development needs over a season.	Demonstrates competence in coaching Advance Match Officials by providing constructive feedback, and support tailored to their development needs over a season.	Effectively delivers emerging courses that align with Football Australia’s teaching methodology, demonstrating adaptability to the needs of the modern learner within the talent space.	Effectively delivers advanced courses that align with Football Australia’s teaching methodology, demonstrating adaptability to the needs of the modern learner within the talent space.
YEARLY REVALIDATION (CPD Points)				
Commences the following season after completing your accreditation				
Laws of the Game Update	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Revalidation Quiz	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Tutorial	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)	Yes (10pt)
Total CPD Points	30	30	30	30
<p>All match officials must be registered with Football Australia to obtain and maintain their accreditation.</p> <p>If your account shows no activity for one full season, it will automatically move into extended maintenance for the following two years. After that period, your qualification will expire.</p> <p>To keep your accreditation current, all registered match officials must maintain an active Learning Centre account and complete the required revalidation package.</p> <p><i>*Some courses will temporarily continue under the 2018 AODS structure. Bridging courses are available to support transition into M-Ref. Member Federation administrators should contact the Football Australia Community Manager for guidance.</i></p>				



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Image courtesy of Andy Murray & AvellinoM