

TASMAN RUGBY

ASSOCIATE REFEREE COURSE

This is for all you Mums and Dads, Brothers and Sisters of junior rugby players; ask yourself:

- Are you sick of watching your child/sibling from the side line?
- Are you sick of getting wet, cold and miserable from the side line?
- Are you sick of having your view blocked by other spectators getting in your way?
- How would you like a free ticket to the **best seat in the house**?

If this sounds like you then please, read on...

Junior rugby is where it all starts – Grassroots rugby – and just like our Mighty Tasman Mako and the All Blacks, junior rugby games need a referee.

From Rippa rugby at Under 6's and Under 7's, all the way up to Under 13's, the thankless task of refereeing these games often falls back onto the coaches of the teams.

But here's the thing, coaching boys and girls to play and refereeing their games are two distinct roles and often, the two conflict with each other.

To alleviate this, the New Zealand Rugby Union implemented an "Associate Referee" category.

Aimed at parents, older siblings and other interested spectators, the "Associate Referee" course is designed to give Mums and Dads, Brothers and Sisters of these Under 6's to Under 13's the necessary tools, skills and confidence to enable them to "have a go" and find themselves right at the heart of the action, or as most referees claim, the best seat in the house.

How Do You Get Appointed To A Game?

Generally speaking, each Under 6 up to Under 13 team is required to have an "Associate Referee" attached to it.

If no official referee is appointed by the local referees group, then the home team is responsible for ensuring an "Associate Referee" is available to officiate the fixture.

If none of these people are available then the home team can nominate someone to

referee but scrums become non-contested. So you can see how vitally important it is that we have qualified “Associate Referees” available to referee our grass roots rugby.

What Will You Learn?

Most people know what a knock on looks like, what a forward pass looks like and what a dangerous tackle looks like, so you can safely assume you won't learn those. During a typical 2.5 hour “Associate Referee” course, you'll learn:

Pre Match:

- How to run a scrum safety briefing
- How to conduct the toss and work out who is running in which direction and who is kicking off
- How to get yourself ready both physically and mentally for your game

During a Match:

- How to set up the two teams at a kick off
- Where to run once the ball has been kicked off
- Where to run when the ball moves either sideways or forward
- What to look for and what to say when a tackle, a ruck, or a maul forms so that the ball comes out
- What to do when you see an infringement occur
- How to **restart the game if the ball doesn't come out from a tackle, ruck maul or set piece (scrum/lineout)**

After Match:

- What to do at the end of the game (and what not to do)
- What to do if you have a yellow or a red card
- How to monitor and measure your performance so you can get better

What you will get:

All “Associate Referees” once they complete the course receive automatically:

- An “Associate Referee” accreditation card from NZ Rugby
- A Gibbons Construction Associate Referee bib to wear when you officiate
- 2x 2017 season passes to Tasman Mako home games in your sub-union
- Unlimited 24/7 support from the Tasman Rugby Referee Education Officer via email and telephone

So where to from here?

If you'd like to give refereeing a go, but don't want to commit to it full time, then acting as an "Associate Referee" for your child/sibling may be for you.

To get started all you have to do is attend one of the "Associate Referee" courses held throughout the Tasman region.

It's free to attend, you don't have to pre-register, just turn up to the course and you're almost there!! Please remember to bring along your Driver's Licence or Licence number – this is required for Police Vetting purposes.

And once you've completed a course, your accreditation as an "Associate Referee" remains current for two years provided you attend a 'Rugby Smart' safety course at the beginning of each season.

Check out the course dates below.

Associate Referee Course Dates:

Wednesday 12th April 2017
6:00pm – Wanderers RFC Clubrooms, Brightwater

Wednesday 19th April 2017
6:00pm – Huia RFC Clubrooms, Motueka

Wednesday 26th April 2017
6:00pm – Waimea Old Boys RFC Clubrooms, Richmond

Wednesday 3rd May 2017
6:00pm – TRU Headquarters, Blenheim

Wednesday 17th May 2017
6:00pm – TRU Headquarters, Nelson

All courses begin at allocated time, registrations from 15min prior to course commence.

For any more information, please contact:

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