



2023 KCRYA Referee Information Pack



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

The Referee Youth Academy is run in conjunction with the annual Kanga Cup Tournament, a week-long football tournament held in Canberra, usually in the first week of the A.C.T school holidays in July.

The Kanga Cup Referee Youth Academy (**KCRYA**) is an opportunity for selected interstate, overseas and local referees to receive intensive coaching and mentoring, with a focus on developing referees in a tournament environment in the 15 to 18 age group.

The KCRYA has the support of the Football Australia (**FA**) with the official curriculum using resources from the FA Level 3 and Level 4 course.

Match Officials who are selected to participate in the KCRYA will be involved in:

- ✓ A week-long in-house Academy experience with up to 50 other referees from Canberra, interstate, overseas, and similarly based referee coaches;
- ✓ Refereeing throughout the week in panel groups, including finals, reflective of their qualifications, experience, age and tournament performance;
- ✓ Nightly seminars (first four nights) including some run by current and former FIFA Referees; and
- ✓ Feedback upon their refereeing, including their performance as a Referee and as an Assistant Referee via electronic coaching sheets and individual sessions with referee coaches.

There is no better week in the year for a young referee who is serious about improving and going to the next level in their refereeing career.

Tournament Details

The Kanga Cup is the largest International Youth Football Tournament in the Southern Hemisphere with teams competing from Australia and overseas. The Tournament attracts 300+ teams each year and proudly champions the mission of uniting the Youth of the World through Football.

The Tournament is run by Capital Football (**CF**), the governing body for football in Canberra, and is sanctioned by Football Australia and the Asian Football Confederation.

The Tournament is open to club and school teams from Under 9s to Under 18s. Three divisions (Cup, Plate and Shield) are available in each age group to cater for elite or representative to just participation.

In 2023, the McDonald's Kanga Cup will be played from 3 - 7 July 2023. The Academy runs from Saturday 1 July 2023 with departure on the morning of Saturday 8 July 2023 inclusive. This year will be the 31th edition of the McDonald's Kanga Cup.

SECTION 2: WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE KCRYA?

Referees aged 15-18 years from across Australia and overseas, who are not registered as a Match Official with Capital Football, can apply, or be nominated (by their Member Federation or Referee Association) for the KCRYA.

Selected participants in Capital Football's Cadet and Academy Referee Program will also participate in the KCRYA as part of the Cadet and Academy Referee Program.

Referees who hold a Football Australia Level 4, Level 3 or Level 2 referee qualification (or international equivalent), plus a minimum of 1 years refereeing experience are eligible to apply for the KCRYA.

Additionally, a minimum of one full year or season experience as a referee is required. The applicant's Member Federation or Referee Association will be asked to formally agree to the applying referee's participation and to endorse the experience the applicant has indicated as being accurate.

The Kanga Cup Organising Committee (**KCOC**) will continue to formalise new and ongoing relationships with specific local, interstate and International Associations who have traditionally supported the Kanga Cup and are committed to providing referee development opportunities for their referees through their participation at the Tournament.

These Associations will have the opportunity to nominate a cohort of Referees, and Referee Coaches to attend the Kanga Cup Referee Youth Academy.

These agreements are designed to encourage and build relationships that support the development of local, interstate and international referees looking to progress to the advanced level of officiating.

Should a Member Federation or Referee Association choose to provide nominations to the KCOC, they may use an application process to determine the nominations provided to the KCOC.

The outcome of a match official's application or nomination will be determined by the KCOC. As a principle, match officials can apply and attend the Academy on two separate occasions.

SECTION 3: THE ACADEMY

Management and Structure

Referees and Referee Coaches are an integral part of the Kanga Cup. Local and KCRYA Referees are supported by a network of Referee Coaches from Australia and from overseas.

Additionally, the KCRYA Referees are supported by selected Referee Coaches from interstate and overseas who are accepted to participate in the KCRYA program based on their commitment to assisting with the professional and personal development of youth referees.

They also live-in at the accommodation for the duration of the Tournament, attend matches, and participate in technical sessions. All coaching is undertaken in line with Football Australia guidelines.

All KCRYA participants are joined by the following key staff members, which includes the:

- Head of Referees (**HR**);
- Referee Manager (**RM**);
- Referee Appointments Officer (**RAO**); and
- Any other staff (appointed by the KCOC).

The KCRYA is led by the Head of Referees. The Head of Referees is responsible for the performance and development of all Referees during the tournament, including developing and delivering the KCRYA development program which will contribute to the overall development of Referees and Referee Coaches experience for future tournaments.

The Referee Manager is primarily responsible for the managing all operational aspects for all match officials participating in the Tournament.

The Referee Appointments Officer is primarily responsible for the appointment of Referees to group stage and Finals matches.

Mentor groups are established within the Academy and led by the Referee Coaches. These groups exist for the full week and act as a sounding board for referees and groupings for technical sessions.

Accommodation

KCRYA Referees will be accommodated in twin share rooms within a dormitory-style building. Referees will be required to share toilet and shower facilities.

All linen, pillows and doonas (duvets) are provided therefore sleeping bags and pillows are not required. The accommodation is secure with each individual room individually keyed and high-resolution recordable CCTV security cameras located throughout the property. Clothes washing facilities are available for referees and coaches to use.

Referees must not tamper or remove any form of fire protection and or safety equipment.

PLEASE NOTE:

The accommodation fire alarm system is very sensitive and doesn't like aerosol cans which costs \$AUD1,500 for a false alarm. On this basis they are NOT ALLOWED – bring roll-on deodorant only please.

Meals

Academy based Referees need to be disciplined about their diet and hydration during the week to ensure they do everything possible to stay injury free. The accommodation provides the perfect environment to achieve this goal.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided at the accommodation throughout the week. Lunches will also be prepared and packed by accommodation staff and provided to all KCRYA match officials on matchdays. Access to the nutritious food served at the accommodation plays an important part in refuelling athletes' bodies to enable them to be able to train and perform at the highest level.

The accommodation is committed to providing a supportive food environment that caters to a range of dietary needs, featuring a buffet service to allow maximum choice for KCRYA referees, with both hot and cold items catering for all tastes in a timely, efficient manner. A varied and rotating menu ensures meal times are enjoyable and there is something on the menu to meet every guest's expectation.

Special dietary requirements are also catered on an as requested basis at time of booking. Match officials who are accepted into the Academy will be asked to complete a dietary form which will highlight any issues individual referees may have in advance so they can be accommodated during the Tournament.

Program and Activities

KCRYA participants are involved in refereeing U12-U18 matches, participating in technical seminars, practical training sessions and are encouraged to fully engage with feedback sessions with the in-house referee coaches to maximize their learning and development.

For example purposes only, an abridged version of the KCRYA program is as follows:

Saturday:	Arrive at accommodation by 1:00pm, welcome, training, ice breaker
Sunday:	KC Briefing Seminar, training, KC Opening, education sessions (all day)
Monday:	Round robin games, education session (all day)
Tuesday:	Round robin games, education session (all day)
Wednesday:	Round robin games, education session (all day)
Thursday:	Semi-finals, casual night (all day)
Friday:	Finals, presentation evening (all day)
Saturday:	Depart accommodation (by 10:00am)

Appointment Process (including Finals)

Over 200 referees from across Australia and overseas participate in the Kanga Cup, with approximately 40-50 involved in the KCRYA. All appointments (including finals appointments) are the responsibility of, and made at the discretion of, the KCOC and its staff. No further correspondence will be undertaken on these decisions.

KCRYA Referees will referee exclusively in the junior competitions (U12s to U18s), not Small Sided Games (U11s and younger).

There are three levels in the competition namely the Cup, Plate and Shield levels.

All Referees are initially appointed to the appropriate age group and level based on their experience and age. Based on their performance and referee coaching assessments, adjustments can be made to the level at which they referee. This applies equally to KCRYA and non-KCRYA referees.

Finals appointments are made based on overall referee performance and overall off-field behaviour and attitude. It is the KCOC's intention that all KCRYA participants will receive a finals appointment, however this is not guaranteed. This may be as a Referee, Assistant Referee or 4th Official.

All Referees are assessed and considered for both pool and final appointments.

N.B: Non-KCRYA local referees up to twenty years of age are equally considered for finals appointments.

SECTION 4: PARTICIPATION AS A REFEREE

Referee Welfare, Expected Behaviour and Disciplinary Action

Referee welfare is a key issue in football, and is particularly important in the tournament sense; where referees are away from their normal environment and the heat of competition is squashed into a few days.

Players, coaches and spectators often forget the Respect slogan, and that referees themselves are still learning and need to be supported, not abused. KCRYA Referees need to remember they are our ambassadors both on and off the field.

During the Tournament, all KCRYA Referees and Referee Coaches staying at the accommodation are required to abide by the following rules in conjunction with Football Australia's [National Code of Conduct and Ethics](#) and [Member Protection Framework](#).

Referees and Referee Coaches must always follow the directions and instructions of staff at the accommodation, which includes:

- Referees lights out in sleeping areas by 10:00pm.
- No alcohol, non-prescribed drugs or offensive material is permitted at the accommodation at any time.
- No smoking at any time.
- Referees must stay under supervision at all times.
- Referees and Referee Coaches must be mindful of others who share the accommodation. Others may wish to sleep or rest without loud interruptions.
- Participants exhibiting poor or unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with appropriately. This includes removal from appointments, including finals, or being subject to immediate dismissal from the Tournament and being sent home (at the referee's cost) as well as being reported to your Member Federation / Referees Association.

Referees are supervised by the Referee Coaches, who will also live in-house at the accommodation for the duration of the tournament. Referees will share rooms with other referees of the same gender. Referees and Referee Coaches do not share rooms. Referees are not permitted to leave the accommodation without permission of the Referees Manager or Head of Referees.

KCRYA Referee Responsibilities

By agreeing to participate as a KCRYA Referee, you are required to:

- Referee to the best of your ability at all times with respect to the Laws of the Game.
- Be punctual, prepared and well presented for all match appointments.
- Treat others the way you wish to be treated.
- Show respect to all competitors, coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Support, help and assist fellow match officials.
- Display exemplary behaviour and language, both on and off the pitch, at all times.
- Be a leader and role model for referee colleagues.
- Cooperate with management, referee and ground coordinators and referee coaches.

- Enjoy the experience and allow others to also do so.

Match Officials are prohibited from consuming any alcohol and non-prescribed drugs.

Medicinal drugs are permitted if provided if prescribed by a medical professional. All Referees must abide by Football Australia's [National Anti-Doping Policy](#).

Photography and Social Media

The McDonald's Kanga Cup will adopt Football Australia's [Safeguarding Policy](#) when it comes to the taking of images and videos of a child. Match Officials must abide by the Capital Football's [Social Media Policy](#).

Costs

Referees are responsible for their own travel costs to and from Canberra, as well as their incidental costs* during the week. Costs met by the KCOC include:

- Agreed transfers from arrival point in Canberra to the accommodation
- 7 nights accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner at the accommodation venue
- Healthy packed lunch each day
- Daily return transfers to venues and any other events
- Recovery sessions held at the accommodation each night (pool etc.)
- Referee coaching and technical sessions
- Daily physiotherapy services as appropriate (both a.m. and p.m.)
- No other costs incurred by applicants will be met by the KCOC except at the sole discretion of the Head of Referees, or their designated agent.

Please note: in lieu of above, no referee match fees are paid to Academy match officials.

** Incidental costs can include own purchases from canteens at venues, snacks from Supermarket, any other activities.*

SECTION 5: PREPARING FOR THE KCRYA

Fitness Requirements, Injuries and Sickness

Places in the KCRYA program are limited and it is important that you are fit and healthy to participate and undertake your refereeing duties throughout the week. Unfortunately, accidents do happen and sickness does strike in the period leading up to the Academy.

In the interests of equity and fairness, it is important that referees who are carrying injuries or are ill withdraw from the KCRYA by notifying the [Referees Manager](#) as soon as possible. If you are injured or in doubt, you should not attend Tournament and we may be able to offer your spot to another referee who is fit.

Finally, anyone not meeting these requirements during the Tournament will be subject to review and if necessary, arrangements made for them to go home (at the referee's cost).

What to Bring?

Apart from the standard *weather warning* regarding Canberra in July, the following advice might be useful in preparation for attending the Tournament.

Matchday Apparel and Equipment

You will need to bring the following items:

- Full referee kit (min default referee shirt x2, shorts x2, socks x2).
 - It is recommended to bring a minimum of 2x sets of referee kit given the strong chance of rain at the Tournament.
 - The default referee jersey colour during the Tournament is fluoro yellow as that is the default colour of Capital Football's referee jerseys. You aren't required to purchase a fluoro yellow jersey if you do not have one.
- Additional coloured referee jerseys from your local referee association
 - Similar to your association's default referee jersey, we recommend that you bring any additional coloured referee jerseys in the event that there is a team clash.
 - We recommend bringing a minimum of 2 coloured jerseys in case of adverse weather
- Long sleeve black undershirts can be worn under referee jersey for the cold days.
- Referee spray/rain jacket which can be worn when appointed as an Assistant Referee.
- Additional warm jacket when not officiating.
- A spare pair of football boots, if possible, should the venues become wet and muddy.
- Full referee equipment (red/yellow cards, watches, whistles, notebook, coins etc).

Technical Session Equipment

- Your own copy of the 2023 Laws of the Game Book.
- Notepad and pen.

Recovery Session Apparel

- Swimmers and towel

Other Apparel

- Training apparel for 2x outdoor training sessions on Saturday and Sunday.
- Sleep wear
- Toiletries
- Casual clothing to wear at the accommodation.
- Smart casual clothing for a presentation function (Friday evening).

Medical Conditions and First Aid

Referees will need to report personal injuries to the Venue Referee Coordinator (**VRC**) at the venue immediately before receiving attention from the Sports Medicine Australia trainer at the venue. This will need to be done urgently if it is serious and/or impacts any appointments. Referee Coaches will note injuries and assist as required.

The VRC will notify the RAO of any injury occurring at the venue. Referees will need to report injuries which will impact appointments to the RAO at the accommodation as soon as possible.

As a policy, injured referees who cannot complete their appointments or are not fit to referee on any particular day will not be considered for appointments the following day. This will apply to both round robin matches and finals matches, with all decisions made at the discretion of the Head of Referees or their delegate as appropriate on a case-by-case basis. No further correspondence will be undertaken on these decisions.

Basic first aid services will be provided within the Academy by appropriately qualified staff. In addition, a sports trainer service will be available at the accommodation between 6:00-7:00am and 5:45-6:45pm each day (Monday to Friday mornings and evenings).

Note: Injury assessment and stretching exercises will only be available in the PM session.

If Emergency Care is required, it will be provided in line with the agreement signed upon accepting an offer to participate in the Academy.

Travel Arrangements

All Referees are responsible for their travel arrangements and costs in travelling to and from Canberra. Match officials are encouraged to book their airline, bus or train travel to Canberra through Performance Travel. Contact the team at Performance Travel for an [obligation-free quote](#) now and save time and money when you book through them.

Referees can check into the accommodation from 12:00pm on Saturday 1 July 2023 and should aim to check in no later than 1:15pm, with the program scheduled to start at 2:00pm on Saturday 1 July 2023. Earlier arrivals will be organised on an individual basis based on the travel information you provide to the Referee Manager.

SECTION 6: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I attended the KCRYA last year, am I able to attend again?

The KCOC allows selected referees to attend KCRYA on two occasions. Referees wishing to attend the Kanga Cup for a 2nd time should apply through the normal process when applications are sought.

I can't arrive until Saturday night, is this okay?

All KCRYA referees should arrive by lunchtime Saturday and preference is given to those who can meet this requirement. Any exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Head of Referees or their delegate.

Can I play and be a part of the KCRYA in the same year?

Due to the full-time nature of the KCRYA program, you cannot play and referee at the McDonald's Kanga Cup as a KCRYA Referee.

Should I referee in the week prior to the Tournament?

The KCOC recommends that KCRYA referees do not referee in the 5 days leading up to the Tournament for their own Associations given the heavy load you will experience during the tournament.