



KANGA CUP

2025 REFEREE YOUTH ACADEMY
INFORMATION PACK



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KCRYA

BACKGROUND

The Referee Youth Academy is run in conjunction with the annual Kanga Cup Tournament, a week-long football tournament held in Canberra, during the ACT July school holidays.

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 aged 16-20 in a tournament environment.

The KCRYA has the support of Football Australia (FA) with the official curriculum using resources from the FA Senior Football Match Official (Level 3) and Junior Football Match Official (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 referees and referee coaches from Canberra, interstate and overseas;
- Refereeing throughout the week in panel groups, including finals, reflective of qualifications, experience, age and tournament performance;
- Nightly seminars (first four nights) including some run by current and former FIFA Referees; and
- Feedback on refereeing performance as a Referee and 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 16s. Three divisions (Cup, Plate and Shield) are available in each age group to cater for representative teams to participation teams.

The 2025 Kanga Cup will be played from 14 - 18 July 2025. Referees will arrive to the Academy in the afternoon of Saturday 12 July 2025, and will depart on the morning of Saturday 19 July 2025.

This year will be the 33rd edition of the Kanga Cup.





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**) continues to work with specific local, interstate and International Associations who have traditionally supported the Kanga Cup and are committed to providing development opportunities for their referees through 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.

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.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE KCRYA?

Referees aged 16-20 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 Referee Academy Program will also participate in the KCRYA.

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



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 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 the professional and personal development of youth referees.

They will 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 program which contributes to the overall experience of Referees and Referee Coaches for future tournaments.

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

The Referee Appointments Officer is 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 at the AIS Residences in twin share rooms. Referees will be required to share toilet and shower facilities.

All linen, pillows and doonas (duvets) are provided, bringing own sleeping bags and pillows are not required.

The accommodation is secure with each individual room individually keyed and CCTV security cameras located throughout the property.

Clothes washing facilities are available for Referees and Coaches to use.

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the AIS Residences throughout the week. Packed lunches will also be available for all KCRYA match officials on matchdays.

Access to the nutritious food served at the AIS Dining Hall plays an important part in refuelling athletes' bodies to enable them to be able to train and perform at the highest level.

The AIS Dining Hall caters to a range of dietary needs, with buffet-style of hot and cold items, varying daily. Special dietary requirements can be catered to by request at time of booking.

Match officials who are accepted into the Academy will be asked to complete a dietary form which will alert Academy staff to any individual requirements in advance, so they can be accommodated during the Tournament.

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. Aerosol deodorant cans are **NOT ALLOWED** – bring roll-on deodorant only please.*





PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

KCRYA referees are involved in refereeing U12-U18 matches, participating in technical seminars, practical training sessions and feedback sessions with the in-house Referee Coaches to maximise their learning and development.

Example KCRYA Program:

Saturday: Arrive at accommodation by 1:00pm, welcome, training, ice breaker

Sunday: KC Briefing Seminar, training, KC Opening, education sessions

Monday: Round robin games, education session

Tuesday: Round robin games, education session

Wednesday: Round robin games, education session

Thursday: Semi-finals, casual night

Friday: Finals, presentation evening

Saturday: Depart accommodation (by 10:00am)



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 Referee Coaches and Academy Staff, 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.

PARTICIPATION AS A REFEREE

REFEREE WELFARE, EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Referee welfare is particularly important in Tournament settings; 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, that referees themselves are still learning and need to be supported. 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.



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 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 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.





FITNESS REQUIREMENTS, INJURIES AND SICKNESS

Places in the KCRYA program are limited and it is important that you are fit and healthy to undertake refereeing duties throughout the week.

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 can fully participate.

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).

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.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I REFEREE EVERY DAY?

The answer is yes, Match Officials can nominate specific days on which they are available or for the full week. The KCOC would prefer everyone is available on multiple days or all week to ensure the coaching and game day experience builds on your experience.

WHO WILL PAY ME?

The KCOC will pay your fees into your nominated bank account within 4 weeks after the tournament's completion, so long as your match records are complete and payment details are provided through Dribl.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT MY APPOINTMENTS?

Appointments are advertised widely via Spond as our communication platform, and via Dribl where possible. The appointments for the first day are released as soon as possible following the Pre-Tournament Meeting for Match Officials on Sunday 13th July.

WHAT DO I DO IF I GET INJURED?

It is important that you get immediate treatment at the venue if you are injured. You should speak to the Venue Referee Coordinator (VRO) who will arrange treatment and contact your parent/carer if necessary.

If you feel you cannot referee the next day, you must advise the Appointments Officer immediately so alternative arrangements can be made, and we don't leave a game without a Referee.

HOW DO I MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE FOR MATCHES?

The KCOC will ask you specific questions relating to your availability closer to the Tournament. This will include days and times when you are available as well as locations which best suit you (versus whole of Canberra availability).

WHAT UNIFORM DO I WEAR?

All registered Capital Football Match Officials will wear the official CF uniform (Legea) on matches during the tournament. The primary referee jersey colour is fluoro yellow. Interstate and International Match Officials are to wear their uniform of their registered Member Federation, Association, or Branch.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE GROUND?

It is especially important that you arrive at your appointed location at least 30 minutes before your first game. When you arrive, you should report immediately to the Venue Referee Coordinator so they know you are available and don't give your game to someone else.

IF I HAVE AN INCIDENT IN A GAME, WHAT DO I DO?

If you have any problems in a game, you should report them immediately to either the Venue Referee Coordinator or Referee Coach(es) at your venue who will assist in reporting and resolving any issues.