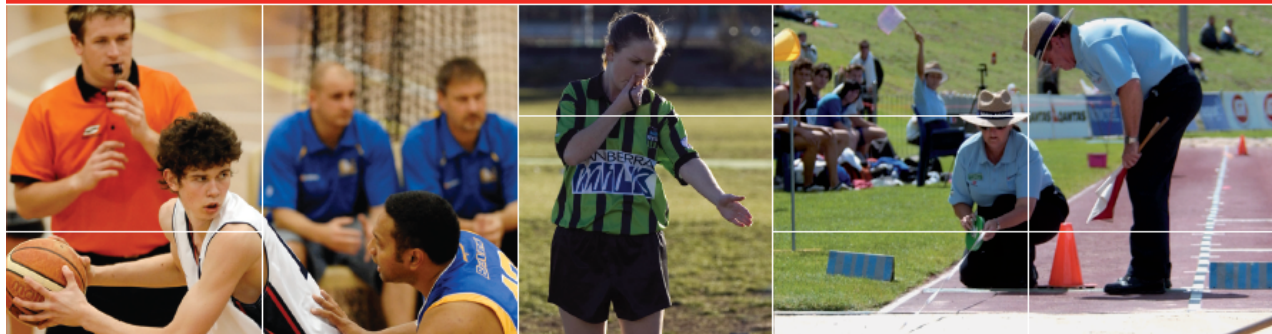




Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



League referees upskill online

Whether you have ambitions to be one of the best officials in Australia or just want to be a better club referee, the Australian Sports Commission's online Introductory Officiating General Principles, is a great starting point according to North Rockhampton's Ron Tasker.

'I'm a teacher and always like to brush up my skills,' Tasker said. 'I just wanted to improve my knowledge so I can be competent when I'm called on to referee touch and rugby league when they are short of officials.'

Tasker has spent 15 years officiating in a number of different sports, including rugby league, touch, hockey, swimming and surf lifesaving.

He is also involved in sports training and conditioning and believes it is vital to have a good all round knowledge.

'Being a good official means you can make a difference. Helping out with the education of players is important at the grass roots level.'

'The online course was a really good way of finding out about the latest philosophies and ideas in the privacy of my own home.'

'I really enjoyed it. The information is all very useful and is well presented.'

Fifteen-year-old rugby league referee Jordan Testa also liked the flexibility of being able to learn on line.

'There is a fair bit of reading, but I was able to fit it in around my schoolwork and it was really interesting,' Testa said.

'There were some good tips on how to handle parents on the sideline.'

He has played rugby league for ten years and is currently a member of the Under 15 Aquinas Colts, in the Sutherland Shire.

'It's just a great game to play and referee.'

Having started when he was 14 for the Cronulla Sutherland Referees Association, Jordan is keen to take his officiating as far as he can and the introductory course is a starting point.

'It would be good to go all the way and referee at the international level.'

The online Introductory Officiating General Principles is available at the Australian Sports Commission's learning portal at <https://learning.ausport.gov.au>