



Sunderland vs Chelsea, Stadium of Light, Sunderland 18 August 2009.

(L-R) Phil Dowd (4th Official); Stephen Toth; Richard West (Assistant Referee, FIFA); Steve Bennett (Referee); Peter Kirkup (Assistant Referee, FIFA)

South Australian referee Stephen Toth has been selected as the only football representative to participate in the Australian Sports Commission National Officiating Scholarship Program for 2009. This follows Lee Corey's participation last year.

"As a Level 1 referee in South Australia and current National Youth League referee, Stephen has a bright future ahead of him" commented FFSA Referee Development Officer and State Referee Coach Matthew Cream. "He has been appointed to his first official A-League match as 4th official and I am sure this year's experience has been invaluable in his development as a referee and will hold him in good stead in the future".

Stephen has used the scholarship for professional development opportunities such as observing elite match officials and match experience at higher level competitions. He attended the induction workshop in Brisbane where he was exposed to opportunities usually reserved for elite athletes rather than officials such as vision testing, media advice, nutritional advice, specific recovery techniques and sports psychology.

Stephen has officiated in the top competition in every state this season as part of an exchange program. As well as observing elite match officials at World and Asian Cup qualifiers around the country, Stephen is currently the guest of the Professional Game Match Officials Board in England where he has joined the English Premier League referees during their start to the season. This trip follows a similar trip for Lee in 2008.