

Grade 9 Referee Update

For the last year entry-level referees have been certified as Grade 9 (Recreational Referee), and are identified by the light blue patch they wear.

Benefits

The change to the Grade 9 (from Grade 8) has been successful in accelerating the recruitment of entry-level referees, due to the course being shorter in length (9 hours from 18 hours) and less expensive for the starting referee.

Implementation

Grade 9 referees are entitled to center recreational games up to U-14 (NO select game centers) and be an assistant referee on any recreational or select game up to U-14. These restrictions are CRITICAL, reflecting the low level of experience and training the referee has received to date.

If a Grade 9 referee must be used as an assistant outside of these parameters, then it MUST be as a 'club line', where they should not wear a patch, should not receive a game fee, and are entitled to call ball out of play ONLY.

Problem

When a Grade 9 referee is used inappropriately, the game becomes subject to protest. In addition, the referee becomes potentially subject to E & G (Ethics & Grievance) - for accepting the game; the assignor subject to E & G for assigning them; the league association subject to penalty and there may be a significant potential insurance risk too.

Solution

Ensure everyone understands and adheres to the policy.

As soon as a Grade 9 referee shows the potential to undertake higher-level assignments, have them sign up for a R9 – R8 Bridge Class, which is a further 9 hours of instruction and a similar cost to the entry-level class. Upon successful conclusion of the class the referee attains Grade 8 (black patch) and the restrictions are removed.

Action

Several Bridge classes are running this Summer, and some might be canceled due to insufficient enrolment – get some of your better R9s involved ?