

Belnorth FC Referee Coordinator Report 2023

With over 50 Referees and Game Leaders, we had a terrific season as a refereeing cohort at Belnorth. With the dry weather giving us full winter and summer seasons, this was our biggest year ever, with over 1000 games refereed in the U8-U19s.

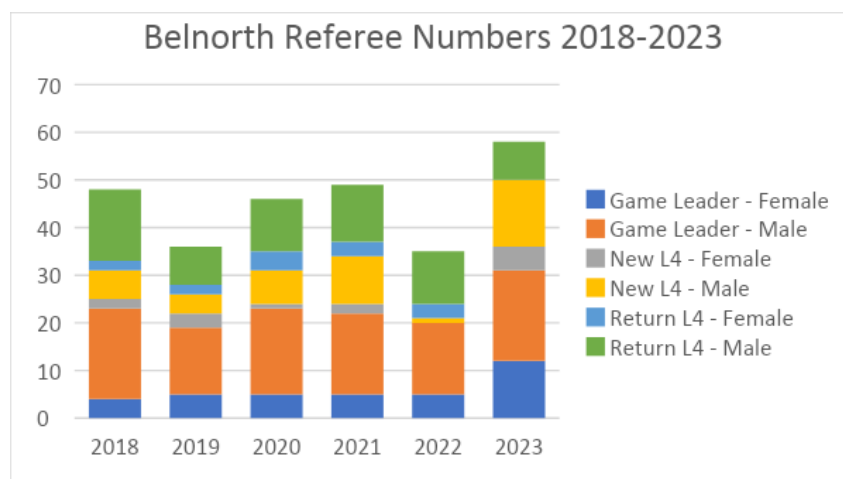
It has been a pleasure once again to look after our group of new and continuing Referees and Game Leaders. We had a great team spirit within the group, with everyone working together well and with great enthusiasm throughout both the winter and summer seasons.

Referee Numbers

In the winter season, we had 27 L4/L3 Referees and 31 Game Leaders. This was a significant increase on 2022 and the most referees we have had in my time refereeing at the club over the last 10 years. I thank the committee for their support in regularly promoting upcoming courses through the club newsletter and Facebook page, with the results seen in the significant number of new Referees and Game Leaders.

Referee numbers for the last 6 years are shown below.

Year	GL - Female	GL - Male	New Ref - Female	New Ref - Male	Return Ref - Female	Return Ref - Male	Total
2018	4	19	2	6	2	15	48
2019	5	14	3	4	2	8	36
2020	5	18	1	7	4	11	46
2021	5	17	2	10	3	12	49
2022	5	15	0	1	3	11	35
2023	12	19	5	14	0	8	58



Of our referees/GLs, 25 were also playing for Belnorth across our U13-18 teams, with the U14D1 Girls team having the most with 7. Across the U16 and U18 teams, it was great to see a number of referees continuing from previous years and upgrading their qualifications. We also had referees who play for a variety of JNPL clubs, including Belconnen United, Tigers, Gungahlin, Canberra Croatia, Canberra United and Canberra Olympic, many of whom played for Belnorth as juniors.

We had several Game Leaders and Referees attend the Kanga Cup, getting invaluable experience and coaching over the week. We also had the opportunity to support a handful of Belconnen United JNPL

matches at Kaleen Enclosed. This was an excellent learning experience for the referees involved, and if there is the opportunity to do the same next season, Belnorth will be happy to provide support.

Next year, I hope to see our Game Leaders consider upgrading to Level 4, particularly those who have been a GL for a couple of years. Similarly, for our senior referees, there will be further opportunities for Level 3 courses and to get involved more in JNPL matches. We continue to have also had strong interest in upcoming courses, and the club will post these details in the newsletter when courses are announced in the new year.

Match Coverage

We had a significant increase in referee coverage compared to 2022. There were only two matches in winter without referees, both in the first round of the season. Overall, we had 525 matches refereed in winter, which accounts for 1332 referee appointments (including assistant GLs/referees).

Match coverage stats for the winter season are shown below:

Age Group	Rounds	Matches	Referee Coverage (%)	Change from 2022 (%)	AR Coverage (%)	Change from 2022 (%)
					(2 per game)	
U8	16	96	100	Nil	83.85	-12
U9	16	144	100	Nil	72.57	+19.8
U10	18	86	100	Nil	92.44	-7.5
U11	18	58	100	Nil	76.72	-8.9
U12	18	48	97.92	+16.1	56.25	+47.1
U13	18	8	100.00	Nil	100.00	+90
U14	18	38	97.37	+4.5	72.37	+65.2
U15	18	12	100.00	+9.1	75.00	+51.4
U16	19	9	100.00	+26.7	66.67	+60
U18	19	28	100.00	+10	60.71	+55.7
Total	19	527	99.62	+3.2	76.57	+18.2

Henk's Summer Comp

For Henk's Summer Comp this year, we had 32 referees/GLs participate, an increase of 10 from last year. As with the winter season, coverage was very high, only having the occasional vacancy due to the high number of referees also playing and JNPL trials during the early weeks of the season.

With the significant increase in teams for Summer Comp this year, we had 53 to referee each week, meaning that close to 500 matches were covered over the 9 rounds.

Referee Awards

Congratulations to our club referee award recipients this season:

Henk Thijssens Golden Whistle – awarded to a Game Leader and Referee of the Year

- Game Leader – Abby Richards
- Referee – Xavier Taylor

Closing Remarks

In closing, I would firstly like to thank the Belnorth Committee for their support over the season. The committee sees the importance in developing referees at Belnorth and has continued to support our refereeing group by providing spare equipment and a field for our warmups, supporting our referees whenever issues arise, and by quickly processing match payments each week.

I encourage club members to consider becoming referees in 2024, as referees form an integral part of the game that can often be overlooked. We have seen a great increase in the interest in refereeing this year, and I hope that that continues into next year.

Lastly, I thank all our Referees and Game Leaders for all your efforts this season. I have enjoyed seeing you all develop this season and hope to see you all back on the park in 2024.

Matthew Willington

Belnorth Referee Coordinator