

IHNZ REFEREES: QUALIFICATION SYSTEM AND TRAINING PROGRAM

This document describes referee qualification levels, the requirements and expectations for each level, and the official training programme which is overseen by the National Referee Panel.

There are four official IHNZ Referee levels, which referees can work their way through. Progress through the levels is based on a combination of formal training, on-rink assessment and support from your regional committee. The **Referee Training Programme (RTP)** details the formal training and assessment required to progress through the official IHNZ Referee Levels.

The role of the IHNZ National Referee Panel

The IHNZ National Referee Panel is available to support, assist, mentor and encourage officials who want to advance to the next level.

Senior Officials will be actively 'scouting' at large tournaments for referees who demonstrate the knowledge, dedication and ability to progress to the next level. If you see a senior referee at an event, you can approach them and ask any questions, or contact the panel at referee@inlinehockeynz.org.nz or via Facebook IHNZ Referees.

All officially-sanctioned referees are included in the National Referee Database which is available to regional committees and clubs hosting sanctioned tournaments. The Panel will update the Database after each training course. Any referee who has been inactive for longer than one season may be required to re-train to pick up their most recent level.

Requirements for all official referees

Regardless of the level at which they referee, all IHNZ approved referees must:

- demonstrate their commitment to the sport at club, region and national level,
- attend an official one-day refresher course at least every two years,
- be consistently available to referee in the regional league of which their club is a member,
- not be inactive for more than 12 months,
- maintain skating ability appropriate to the highest grade they officiate at,
- regularly refresh themselves with the rule book to maintain a good level of knowledge relevant to the level(s) they are refereeing. (*Copies of the current IHNZ Rule Book and Officials' Manual will be available*),
- agree and follow the Official's Code of Ethics in the current 2019 Officials' Manual,
- demonstrate knowledge of off-floor official roles (scorer, game and penalty timekeepers),
- purchase their own official IHNZ referee shirt once these become available

Level 1:

Level 1 referees will generally referee junior and/or social grades, although they may be asked to referee higher grades as required. To obtain Level 1 status, the individual must:

- be at least 13 years of age, (*younger officials can maintain Level 1 status if qualified before the end of 2018*)
- have played the sport for at least 6 months, (*non-players e.g. parents will be considered on a case-by-case basis*)
- attend and participate in a full “RTP” course endorsed by the National Referee Panel,
- complete a written examination at the end of the Referee Training Program.

Level 2:

Level 2 referees will generally referee regional age grades, including senior grades if required. To successfully obtain Level 2 status, the individual must:

- be at least 16 years of age and have held Level 1 Status for at least one year, (*younger officials can maintain Level 2 status if qualified before the end of 2018*)
- seek recommendation from at least two National Referee Panel delegates.

To maintain Level 2 status, these officials must:

- be available to referee at either National Championships or Interregional Championships and be available for their regional league,
- advise their local referee panel delegate in writing, if unavailable for either tournament, (*This is accepted on a case by case scenario to maintain Level 2 Status*)
- undergo an on-rink evaluation from a senior official approved by the IHNZ Referee Panel.

Level 3:

Level 3 referees can referee all grades, including premier grades. To successfully obtain Level 3 status, the referee must:

- demonstrate a high level of officiating throughout the season,
- be nominated by at least two National Referee Panel members leading up to a NZ Nationals or Inter Regional Tournament,
- undergo an on-rink evaluation process during the National or Inter Regional Tournament,
- undergo one-on-one mentoring with Senior Officials to confirm the referee is ready for the responsibilities of this higher level.

To maintain their Level 3 status, these officials must:

- wear full correct referee uniform as described in the official's manual,
- demonstrate a deep understanding of the rules
- be a positive role model to other officials, players, coaches and spectators.
- maintain a positive relationship with players, coaches, spectators, club and game officials.
- mentor and provide one-on-one feedback to less-experienced officials.
- demonstrate knowledge of off-floor officials' roles, and undertake these roles when required.
- at least annually, undergo an on-rink evaluation from a senior official (of the same level or higher) approved by the IHNZ Referee Panel.

Level 4 (Super-League and International Certification):

Referees who gain this level will be the top tier of NZ officials. Referees at any level are eligible for this status, to officiate at a specific Super-League or International event, based entirely on their performance directly leading up to that event. The decision will be made collectively between the National Referee Panel and the IHNZ Board.

To successfully obtain Level 4 status, the individual must:

- be invited by the National Referee Panel.
- demonstrate the ability to keep pace in a Super League International event, both in terms of skating ability and game management,
- demonstrate an exceptional knowledge of the rules, particularly penalty procedures, game and player management,
- demonstrate a history of diffusing difficult situations or behaviours during a game.

Referee Training Programme (RTP)

This programme is operated on behalf of the IHNZ Board by the National Referee Panel and facilitated by Senior Referees nominated by the Panel. To be able to referee IHNZ games, all referees must participate in the RTP as required.

The programme consists of:

- Full Training Course (two days) held at least every two-years in each region
- Refresher Course (one day) held annually in each region.

Full Training Course (two days):

This provides aspiring referees with a platform to gain the knowledge required to referee under the qualification system. Day One consists of class room learning with some physical exercises throughout the day. Day Two consists of on-rink training, some class room and a short, written (multi choice) exam.

The training covers the following modules:

- IHNZ Rule Book
- On Rink Learning, Fitness and Positioning
- Qualities and Role of the Referee
- Player and Game Management
- Conflict Management/Dealing with abuse
- Procedures
- Equipment
- Penalty Overview and Scenarios
- Incident Reporting
- Supporting Off Floor Game Officials

Refresher Course (one day):

Qualified referees at every level should attend a refresher at least every two years. This one day course will involve at least five modules from the full course which may involve on and off floor modules. The modules to be included will be agreed between the National Referee Panel and the host region.