

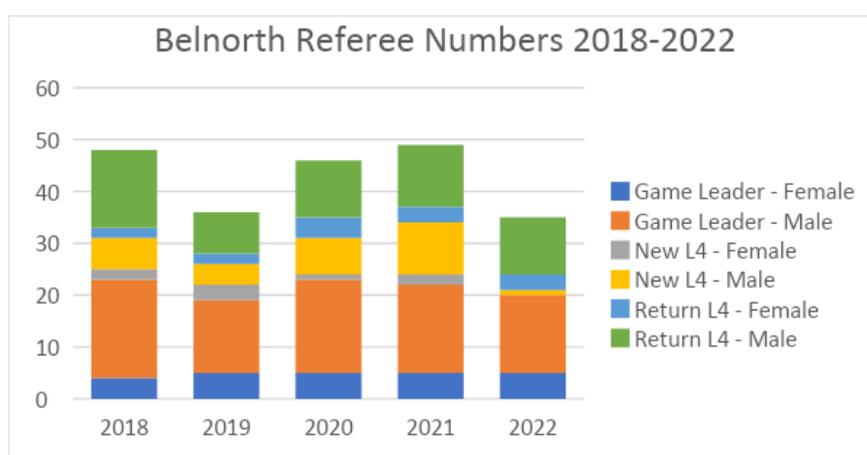
## Referee Coordinator Report 2022

Coming to the end of my fifth year as Referee Coordinator, it has been a pleasure once again to look after our group of new and continuing Referees and Game Leaders. Our group has shown great enthusiasm throughout both winter and summer seasons, always looking to improve skills and pick up as many games as they can.

### Referee Numbers

Overall, this year we had 15 L4/L3 Referees and 20 Game Leaders. This was a reduction on 2021 numbers mainly driven by attrition from our longer serving 17-18 year old L4s as they finish school / playing and a reduction in the number of new Level 4 referees. Referee numbers for the last 5 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



Of our referees/GLs, 19 were also playing for Belnorth, including 11 across the two U15 Boys teams. It was great to see our referees enjoying themselves and refereeing with friends, which will hopefully be a factor in retention in coming years.

Next year, I hope to see a larger number of our Game Leaders upgrade to Level 4, particularly those who have been a GL for a couple of years. We have also had strong interest in upcoming courses whenever details are posted in the club newsletter, which is a promising sign ahead of 2023.

### Referee Coaching

Our Game Leader warm up each Saturday morning proved to again be a success, allowing me to instruct the whole group in referee-specific activities to develop skills and provide a focus for the week's matches. Attendance was always good at these sessions, getting 10-15 GLs each week.

For next season, I aim to work with that the committee to find another person to assist with coaching the referees, at least for the morning where there are more matches to cover.

## Match Coverage

Despite the reduction in referee numbers, coverage of matches remained strong. We occasionally had shortages at 3:10pm matches, which stems from our senior referees sometimes playing themselves at this time in NPL competitions. 100% of Miniroos matches had at least one Game Leader this season, with the support of the club committee for Assistant Game Leaders helping to get all our GLs onto the park as often as possible.

Match coverage stats for the winter season are shown below:

Age Group	Rounds	Matches	Ref Coverage (%)	AR Coverage (%) (2 per game)
U8	10	60	100	95.83
U9	10	90	100	53.33
U10	12	37	100	100
U11	12	42	100	67.86
U12	12	22	81.82	9.09
U13	12	6	100	10
U14	12	14	92.86	7.14
U15	12	11	90.91	13.64
U16	13	15	73.33	16.67
U18	13	10	90	5

## Henk's Summer Comp

For Henk's Summer Comp this year we had 22 referees/GLs participate. As with the winter season, coverage was very high, only having the occasional vacancy due to the high number of referees also playing.

Summer Comp is a good opportunity for referees/GLs to test themselves by referee older age groups, and I once again been impressed with everyone's commitment to maintaining high refereeing standards throughout the season.

## 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 – Ben Dugard
- Referee – Jacqueline Weinhardt

Additionally, Vince Cosentini was awarded the Ian Hotchkiss Award by Capital Football, recognising the commitment and development of one north-side referee each year. Vince this year made the transition from refereeing at Belnorth to refereeing JNPL and WNPL matches, and I wish him all the best in his refereeing career.

## 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 have continued to increase their support for myself and our referees in 2022 through purchasing new equipment, actively

promoting referee courses in the newsletter and social media, and supporting referee development through coaching and high match coverage of both referees and ARs.

I encourage club members to consider becoming referees in 2023, as referees form an integral part of the game that can often be overlooked. Capital Football are supporting referee development and retention for the 2023 season with significant increases to match fees.

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 2023.