



## FEMALE REFEREE UPDATE FROM SSFA

18<sup>th</sup> May 2010

To encourage more females to become involved in refereeing the Sutherland Shire Referee Association ran a female only referee course in 2009. As a result 12 sat and passed the exam. These ladies are now officiating games within the Sutherland Shire, most covering female only games. Feedback from coaches and players from women's teams which have had females appointed to their games has been extremely positive. It appears that female players are enjoying the game more with a lady referee.

*Feedback from a W16 coach; "yesterday we had a woman referee our game as you know, 16 girls can be quite testy. What I did not realize till later was that the girls did not make one complaint about the referee. The ref did a great job, let the game flow and if there was some indecision, she stood firm and went on with the game. It might be interesting to maybe bring more women refereeing the girl's games."*

The SSFRA consists of just over 300 members, 30 of their members are female referees who can be seen around the grounds on any weekend. Apart from women's games on Sundays, many of them are also covering both SSF and competition games on Saturdays. To distinguish female referees the SSFRA took the initiative of designing a ladies cut referee uniform with a colour variation that can now be seen at the grounds.

Ongoing training and support is offered to all participants. There is now a career path for the young aspiring referees with our Peta McCallum having been named NSW Lady Referee of the year for 2009 after a successful season officiating in the recent Women's A League competition. Four of SSFRA ladies are on the Elite Panel and officiate at Women's Premier League games.

The SSFRA aim is to increase the number of female referees for the betterment of the SSFA competition, but they can only do this with the assistance of the member clubs and females who would like to become involved.

It is the intention of the SSFRA to again organise a "females only" course during September 2010, (or prior depending on interest), which will be free to complete. The SSFRA will provide training, uniform and membership at a subsidised cost in view of a government grant that they were awarded. This course will also be made available for any ladies who only want to referee games for their club as "club appointed" referees. Any interested persons are asked to contact the SSFRA via their web site [www.ssfra.org.au](http://www.ssfra.org.au).

Congratulations to all new cadets, who sat and passed the referee exam last week. Of those participants five were females who all received exceptional passes one scored a perfect 100%. The SSFA and the SSFRA hope they will enjoy the new and rewarding challenges that refereeing brings.

Please ensure that your players and officials respect and encourage all referees especially the young cadets both female and male that give up their time every weekend to ensure that everyone enjoys a great game of football.

If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,  
Karen Weekley,  
SSFA Women's Football  
Referee Liaison Officer