VBRA ACCREDITATION POLICY

(Approved at the VBRA August 2013 Board Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

VBRA will only recognise the accreditation of referees done so in accordance with this policy.

Throughout this policy, accreditation requires that the member being accredited be a currently licensed Active Member of the VBRA or a Life Member of the VBRA, as defined by the VBRA Rules of Management.

References in this policy to a “Referee-Coach” mean a currently-licensed referee-coach approved by the VBRA in accordance with this policy, as defined by the VBRA Rules of Management.

References in this policy to “VBRA approval” mean the explicit approval of the Board of Management of the VBRA acting upon an appropriate recommendation.

The operational implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the various organising bodies such as the VBRA education committee, representative leagues, the Basketball Victoria Country Council Referees’ Subcommittee, and individual basketball Associations and referee branches.

SCOPE

This policy covers the accreditation of referees operating in basketball matches played under the auspices of Basketball Victoria and its affiliates.

It does not cover referees and referee-coaches operating in basketball matches played under the control of basketball leagues nor matches played outside the auspices of Basketball Victoria and its affiliates.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The approved operational instructions and guidelines are contained in a companion publication: “VBRA Referees Operations Manual”.

For Specific BVC Referee Grading Policy refer to Attachment 1 of this document (Refer Pages 8 - 12)
REFEREE ACCREDITATION

Apprentice Referee:

To be accredited as an Apprentice Referee, an applicant must:

• apply for admission to the VBRA as an Active Member, through satisfactorily completing the required course;
• complete the Basketball Australia Level 0 Beginners course overseen by an accredited Referee-Coach or, including attending all sessions and completing all modules;
• complete a practical assessment by competently (as assessed by an accredited Referee-Coach) refereeing a domestic game of basketball with an accredited referee;

Accreditation may be granted by the Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative.

Junior Referee:

To be accredited to level Junior Referee, an applicant must:

• be under 14 years of age;
• satisfactorily completing the Basketball Australia Level 0 Beginners course overseen by an accredited Referee-Coach, including attending all sessions and completing all modules;
• complete a practical assessment by competently (as assessed by an accredited Referee-Coach) refereeing a domestic game of basketball with an accredited referee at the appropriate level;

Junior Grade officials should only be appointed to junior level games (up to and including under 14’s), and should always be partnered with Level 1B or above graded officials

Accreditation may be granted, (in accordance with VBRA Domestic Referee Competencies or BVC Referee Grading Policy), by the Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative.

Level 1C:

To be accredited to level 1C, an applicant must:

• be at least 14 years of age;
• satisfactorily completing the Basketball Australia Level 0 Beginners course overseen by Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative, including attending all sessions and completing all modules;
• complete a practical assessment by competently refereeing a domestic game of basketball with an accredited referee, (in accordance with VBRA Domestic Referee Competencies or BVC Referee Grading Policy).

Accreditation may be granted by the Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative.
**Level 1B:**

To be accredited to level 1B, a referee must:

- Have no less than six (6) months experience as an accredited level 1C referee; and
- Have officiated senior basketball older age junior basketball, and
- Have satisfied the assessing Referee-Coach (after reviewing the performance of the referee) that:
  * the referee has displayed obvious improvement since being accredited at level 1C; and
  * the referee has fulfilled the obligations in relation to duties, as required by the local association, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct and wearing correct uniform.

Accreditation may be granted, (in accordance with VBRA Domestic Referee Competencies or BVC Referee Grading Policy) by the Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative.

**Level 1A:**

To gain accreditation at level 1A, a referee must:

- Have been accredited at level 1B referee for at least Twelve (12) Months and should be 16 years of age or older
- Complete all modules of the level 1A course approved by the VBRA;
- Gain at least 80% pass in a theory examination approved by the VBRA. If the examiner believes that extenuating circumstances warrant a lower pass mark, the circumstances must be reported to the VBRA in writing;
- Complete a practical assessment by competently refereeing a match of suitably-challenging standard to the satisfaction of the assessing Referee-Coach;
- Attempt Fitness test, (as a familiarization exercise)

Accreditation may be granted, (in accordance with VBRA Domestic Referee Competencies or BVC Referee Grading Policy), by the Stadium Referee-Coach appointed by the local basketball association or an agreed qualified representative.

To retain accreditation at level 1A, each year the referee must:

- Gain at least 80% pass in a theory examination approved by the VBRA. If the examiner believes that extenuating circumstances warrant a lower pass mark, the circumstances must be reported to the VBRA in writing;
- Continue to demonstrate a standard of refereeing consistent with this level;
- Have fulfilled the obligations in relation to duties, as required by the local association, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct and wearing correct uniform.
**Level 2:**

To be nominated for consideration at level 2, a referee must:
- be nominated on the prescribed form by a Referee-Coach appointed by the basketball association aligned to the branch or region through which the referee is affiliated to the VBRA. By nomination the Referee Coach believes that the candidate is able to achieve the desired competencies required for a Grade 2 official.
- Be an accredited level 1A referee;
- Have been an active Junior Panel Referee for the past Full two years and/or
- Have been an active referee on the Big V and or SEABL panel

To gain accreditation at level 2, a referee must:
- Complete all modules of the level 2 referee's course (as prescribed by the VBRA)
- Gain at least 80% pass in a theory examination approved by the VBRA. If the examiner believes that extenuating circumstances warrant a lower pass mark, the circumstances must be reported to the VBRA in writing;
- Pass a fitness test as prescribed by the VBRA. Note: the candidate must provide the examiner with an approved medical clearance in a form acceptable to the VBRA before attempting the fitness test; and
- Satisfactorily complete a practical assessment by refereeing senior men’s representative basketball or equivalent approved by the VBRA.

Accreditation may be granted by a Grade 2 or higher referee-coach appointed by the VBRA specifically for this purpose.

To retain accreditation at level 2, each year the referee must:
- Gain at least 80% pass in a theory examination approved by the VBRA. If the examiner believes that extenuating circumstances warrant a lower pass mark, the circumstances must be reported to the VBRA in writing;
- Pass a fitness test, (in accordance with VBRA Domestic Referee Competencies or BVC Referee Grading Policy). Note: the candidate must provide the examiner with an approved medical clearance in a form acceptable to the VBRA before attempting the fitness test.

Note: Fitness tests and examinations will be conducted in Melbourne and selected country locations as and when approved by the VBRA.

Once a referee has had two (2) successive attempts at the Level 2 course unsuccessfully, the referee will not be able to attempt the Level 2 course for a period of two (2) years.

To hold the Level 2 grading, the referee must be active on Junior, VBRA panel. If the referee is not selected on to one of these panels in a period of Two years from obtaining the Level 2 grading, the referee will be recognised as a Level 2D.
ADDITIONAL LEVELS:
The VBRA has approved the granting of intermediate levels under certain circumstances, as a means of encouraging and promoting referees.

Level 1D (Domestic):
The intent of this local grading is to provide recognition of the services of local referees where operational procedures make it impractical for them to fulfill the requirements for a VBRA level 1A grading.

To be accredited at level 1A Local, a referee shall:
• Complete a practical assessment by competently refereeing a match of suitably-challenging standard to the satisfaction of the assessing Referee-Coach;
• Be an experienced and respected member of the local association;
• Fulfill requirements in relation to duties, as required by the local association, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct.
• Has not got the perceived potential to obtain Level 1A and progress through to Elite Basketball officiating

Accreditation may be granted by a Grade 2 or higher Referee-Coach appointed by, and with the approval of, the local basketball association.

This accreditation level is recognised only within the local association in which it was granted. The official accreditation shall be registered with the VBRA as level 1B (Local A).

Level 2 Domestic:
The intent of this local grading is to provide recognition of the services of local referees where operational procedures make it impractical for them to fulfill the requirements for a VBRA level 2 grading.

To be accredited at level 2 Domestic, a referee shall:
• Complete a practical assessment by competently refereeing a match of the highest and most-challenging local standard to the satisfaction of the assessing Referee-Coach;
• Have held a level 1A accreditation for at least five (5) years and have refereed for a total period of 15 years
• Be an experienced and respected member of the local association;
• Have achieved a seniority and experience that renders them unlikely to develop their refereeing beyond the local association and is willing to fulfill the role of referee mentor within the Association
• Fulfill requirements in relation to duties, as required by the local association, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct and wears correct uniform.
• Or has refereed 10 years total and held an appointment on State Panels.

Accreditation may be granted by a Grade 2 or higher Referee-Coach appointed by, and with the approval of, the local basketball association.

This accreditation level is recognised only within the local association in which it was granted. The official accreditation shall be registered with the VBRA as level 1A. (Local 2A)
**RETIRED REFEREES:**

Where a referee of level 1A or higher retires from all panels or representative competitions, they may hold their final accreditation level in retirement if:

- The referee held that level for five (5) consecutive years for level 1A, or three (3) consecutive years for higher levels, immediately before retirement;
- The referee successfully completes an annual theory examination as prescribed by the VBRA.

**Returning Referees**

Any domestic referee that has not refereed for a period less than twelve months returns with a grading they held when they left.

Any domestic referee that has not refereed for a period greater than twelve months, and wishes to again referee, will need to satisfy the following criteria.

- Complete a theory test achieving a pass mark relevant to the respective referee level they will be assessed at (according to the Referee Competencies Document).
- Be assessed on 1-3 Domestic games relevant to the level being assessed (according to the Referee Competencies Document) by the Referee Advisor of the stadium or their representative.

Once Theory and Practical have been completed, the referee Advisor will recommend / approve an appropriate level for the referee, being the level they previously obtained or lower.

**REASSESSMENT AND GRIEVANCES**

Where a candidate for promotion to a level achieves some but not all of the criteria within one accreditation cycle, the accrediting authority (Referee-Coach or VBRA committee as the case may be) shall offer the candidate additional opportunities to meet the requirements within a reasonable timeframe. The accrediting authority may set reasonable conditions such as the location, number, time-frame and cost of such additional opportunities. If the referee still fails to meet all of the criteria within this additional time, the referee shall be deemed to have not succeeded and will be obliged to be assessed on all of the criteria at another time.

Where a referee is aggrieved at the decision of a Referee-Coach or a VBRA committee in respect of an accreditation decision regarding that referee (not regarding a fellow referee), then the referee may appeal to the VBRA in writing, providing:

- The accreditation level being sought by the referee;
- The steps taken by the referee to achieve that level;
- The responses of the accrediting Referee-Coach or committee;
- Any extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, without limitation:
  - Return from illness, injury or incapacity
  - Arrival from or return from overseas or interstate

The VBRA will promptly examine the evidence made available by both parties and may, without limitation:

- Dismiss the appeal and uphold the original decision;
- Grant an extension of time to achieve the required standard;
- Grant the appeal.
APPENDIX A – NATIONAL ACCREDITATION MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victorian Level</th>
<th>Apprentice</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>1C</th>
<th>1B</th>
<th>1A</th>
<th>1 Local</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>2 Local</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>3 Country</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
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APPENDIX B – ORDER OF LEAGUES (2011)

1. SEABL (2nd Highest Australian League) & Big V Championship Divisions – Men & Women
2. SEABL D-League & Big V Division 1 – Men & Women
3. Big V Divisional Leagues – Men & Women
4. Victorian Junior Championships
ATTACHMENT 1

BVC SPECIFIC REFEREE GRADING POLICY

2.1 Level 1C /JC Beginner Officials

To be graded to level 1C or JC, referee applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- referees under 14 can be awarded a Junior C Grade (JC); Referees over 14 years of age can be awarded a 1C if they:
  - are registered with the BVC;
  - complete the Basketball Australia's Level O Beginners course conducted by a Grade 1 or higher Referee Coach, including attending all sessions and complete all modules as set by the lecturer including Module 0.1. Game Administration; Module 0.2 Basic Contact; Module 0.3 Basic Violations; and Module 0.4 Basic Mechanics;
  - complete a practical assessment by refereeing a domestic level game of basketball competently with a graded official.

2.2 Level 1B Referees

A level 1C referee may be promoted to level 1B by the local Referee Coach or Adviser no less than one domestic season after being appointed as a level 1C referee provided the referee has officiated some senior basketball or high grade juniors and the Referee Coach or Adviser is satisfied after reviewing the performance of the referee that:

- they are registered with the BVC;
- the referee has displayed obvious improvement since being graded level 1C;
- they have fulfilled the requirements, in relation to duties, as required by the Branch / Association, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct.

If a Referee Adviser does not promote a level 1C referee within twelve (12) months of grading to level 1B that referee should be counseled as to their short comings, and a program agreed upon to enable the referee to achieve the level of performance required by the Referee Coach or Adviser. This program should be documented and the referee's progress reviewed no later than a further six (6) months.

- If after this further six (6) month period the Referee Coach or Adviser is not satisfied that the referee has achieved the required standard, the matter shall be referred to the BVC RC for Consideration of future appointments of the referee.
2.3 Level 1A Referees

To be graded to level 1A, referee applicants must:

- be registered with the BVC;
- have held a Level 1B for a minimum of twelve (12) months
- be a minimum of 16 Years of age

and follow one of two possible pathways:

1. BVC Pathway:

- have been nominated for and observed at a minimum of two (2) BVC events, one of which must be Level 2 (see classification later)
- complete the Basketball Australia's Level 1 course conducted by a Grade 2 (or higher) Referee Coach, including attending all sessions and complete all modules as set by the lecturer including Module 1.1. Game Administration; Module 1.2 Contact Situations Module 1.3 Violations; and Module 1.4 Referee Mechanics; Module 1.5 Technical Infractions: Module 1.6 Timing Regulations and Module 1.7 Physical Fitness and Gain an average mark of at least 80% in evaluations
- satisfactorily complete the annual theory test gaining 80% for theory
- Have fulfilled the requirements in relation to duties, as required by the branch, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct.

2. Association Pathway

- An A grade school can be presented by Grade 2 (or above) referee coach within individual associations. Permission must be sought from BVC RC prior to the announcement of the school being offered.
- The association must have access to games at an appropriate level on which to assess the candidates.
- At the completion of the school, results must be sent to the BVC Referee Administrator.

To **retain** this grading, the referee must

- be nominated for, and observed at two (2) BVC events, one of which must be a level 2 event.
- gain an average mark of at least 80% in evaluations and the theory exam;
- have fulfilled the requirements in relation to duties, as required by the branch, including keeping appointments, being punctual, maintaining game fitness and displaying appropriate conduct.
2.4 Local Level 1A Referees

The Intent of this local grading is to provide recognition of long service of local referees to an association. The local grading is only recognised within the association where it was granted. It must be approved by a Grade 1 or higher BVC Referee Coach or Local Advisor. The appointment must be approved by the local Association’s Administrative Committee.

To be granted this level, a referee must:

- be registered with the BVC;

- be capable of handling the top level of basketball played at the local association;

- be experienced and respected within the association

- have fulfilled the requirements in relation to duties, as required by the branch, including keeping appointments, being punctual and displaying appropriate conduct.

The grading is recognised only within the association in which it was granted (externally, the official is considered to be a State 1B).

Country Local Level A referees will be Recorded with the BVC RSC as “State 1B Local A” when their grading is listed on the annual statements of grades.

2.5 Level 2 Referees

To be granted this level, a referee must

- be registered with the BVC;

- nominate for and be involved at three (3) BVC events. One must be a level 1 event; the evaluation average must be 85% or higher

- have held Level 1A for a minimum of two (2) years

- complete and pass Level 2 Theory Modules

- satisfactorily complete the annual fitness test and theory test (with a mark of at least 80%).

- nominate for and be involved in a minimum of three (3) BVC events. Two must be level 1 events: one may be a level 2 Event

To retain this grading, the referee should

- be nominated for, and observed at two (2) BVC events, one of which must be a level 1 event.

- gain an average mark of at least 85% in evaluations and 80% in the theory exam;

- have fulfilled the requirements in relation to duties, as required by the branch, including keeping appointments, being punctual, maintaining game fitness and displaying appropriate conduct.
2.6 Level 3 Country (3C)

Awarded to referees who:

- are registered with the BVC;
- satisfactorily complete the annual fitness test and theory test (mark of at least 80%).
- their average must be at least 90% or above in Nominated BVC events and be nominated for and attend Australian National Championships
- to Retain this grading, the referee must average 90% or above in nominated BVC events

2.7 Provisional Grades

- Provisional Grades can be awarded to Referees of Level 1A and Above to full fill their grading requirements over a two year period in special circumstances such as injury, illness or study / work commitments
- to be awarded a Provisional Grade written application must be made to BVC RC stating reasons for special consideration
- Provisional Grades can only be held for a two year period and will be recorded with BVC with suffix of P added to their grading when it is listed on the annual statements of grades

2.8 Retired Referees

- Be registered with the BVC;
- For retiring referees to retain their current grading of Level 2 and above, they must have held and retained that level for the past three (3) years.
- This is Recorded with the BVC RC and the suffix R with be added to their grading when it is listed on the annual statements of grades.
- Retiring referees to retain their current grading of 1A must have held and retained that level for the past five (5) years. This is Recorded with the BVC - RSC and the suffix R with be added to their grading when it is listed on the annual statements of grades.
- Referees and Referee Coaches who are in dispute of their grade or appointment may appeal by writing to BVC RC. If resolution cannot be met a meeting between the disputing parties (Referee/Referee Coach / BVC RC) will be held at the closest date and venue agreeable to all parties
- If resolution cannot be met after this meeting the matter will be referred to Basketball Victoria Country Commission for referral to Basketball Victoria
- Each retired referee must satisfactorily complete a theory exam every twelve (12) months.
Note: Selection Process for National events

- to be selected to represent BVC as a referee at a State/National event, the referee must participate in BVC programs, attending at least 2 BVC Level 1 or 2 events as a referee and/or referee coach.

Ratings of events

The following BVC events are classified as BVC nominated grading events for Level 1A and above

**LEVEL 1**

Big V
SEABL
National Championships
AJCBC (U18 Division)
Southern Cross Challenge
CBL
VJBL

**LEVEL 2**

Senior Tournaments: Ballarat, Warrnambool, Portland (Providing grades are awarded by a suitably qualified Referee Coach and forwarded to the BVC Ref Administrator)

BVC Junior Club Championships (U18 and U20)
BVC Division 1 & 2 Junior Championships (U16 and U18)
Association Games (BVC RC to affirm that appropriate game standards are available)

**LEVEL 3**

BVC Division 3 & 4 Junior Championships (U16 and U18)
State Training Games
BVC Junior Club Championships (U12, U14 and U16)
AJCBC (U14 & U16 Divisions)
U14 - Gold Stars
U12 - Future Stars
Great Murray River Jamboree, BVC Jamboree

Domestic Games or Association Tournaments (other than those specified above) are **not** classified as Grading events for Level 1A or above however may be used for any other gradings.

The nominated grading events are reviewed annually by BVC RC.