

## **NSW Referees - Annual Report 2022-23**

Members, I'm pleased to present my fourth annual report as your State Director of Referees, which covers the financial year ending 30/06/23.

Firstly, it was extremely pleasing for all that Covid-19 did not have the impact upon our lives as in recent years, enabling the Board to plan and schedule a full calendar of events and activities for our Sport which were able to be successfully held throughout the year. This included at least 32 events (WSF, APSBF, National, State) – [and one main reason each of those events was successful is because of the important support and assistance provided by the NSW Referees involved.](#)

**Collectively, a total of just 18 (33%) of our NSW Referees regularly put their hands up and made themselves available to officiate during these 32 events.** However, this overall participation rate is extremely low and clearly demonstrates how our Sport is currently reliant upon the services of a committed and enthusiastic few who are willing to regularly apply themselves to the role of Referee and assist organisers to stage such events successfully. [Whether at the various local Sydney venues, or travelling interstate, or perhaps internationally, I once again extend my sincere gratitude to every one of those 18 Referees for providing their time and passionate response to events staged during 2022-23.](#)

---

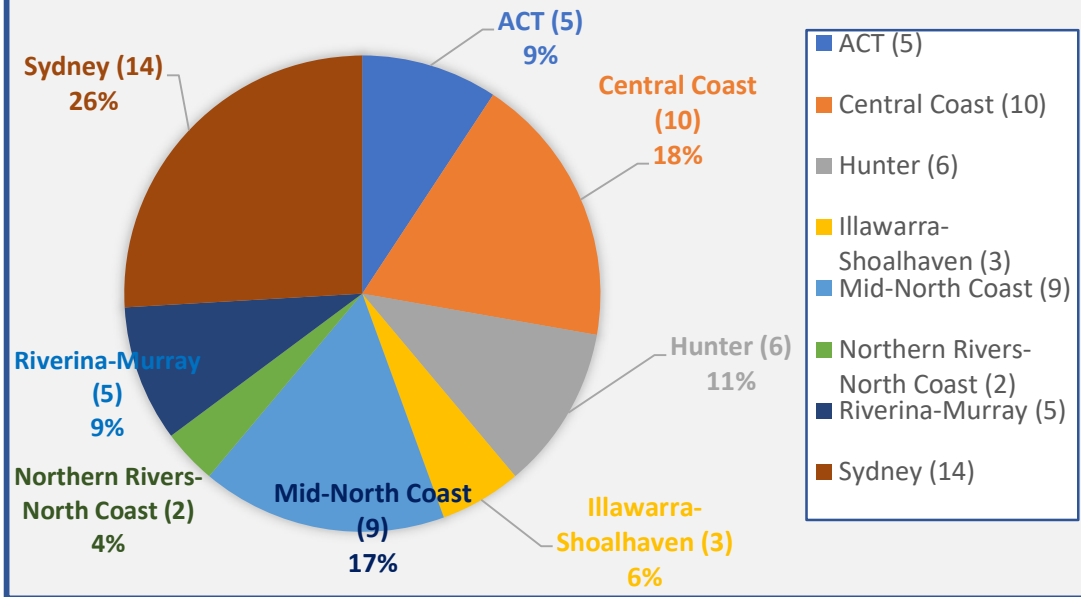
### **Summary of NSW Referees (+ACT)**

Total number of Referees as at 30/06/22	49	
+ new Referees from training workshops	10	
- Less retired, death, etc.	5	
=	<b>54</b>	<b>as at 30/06/23</b>

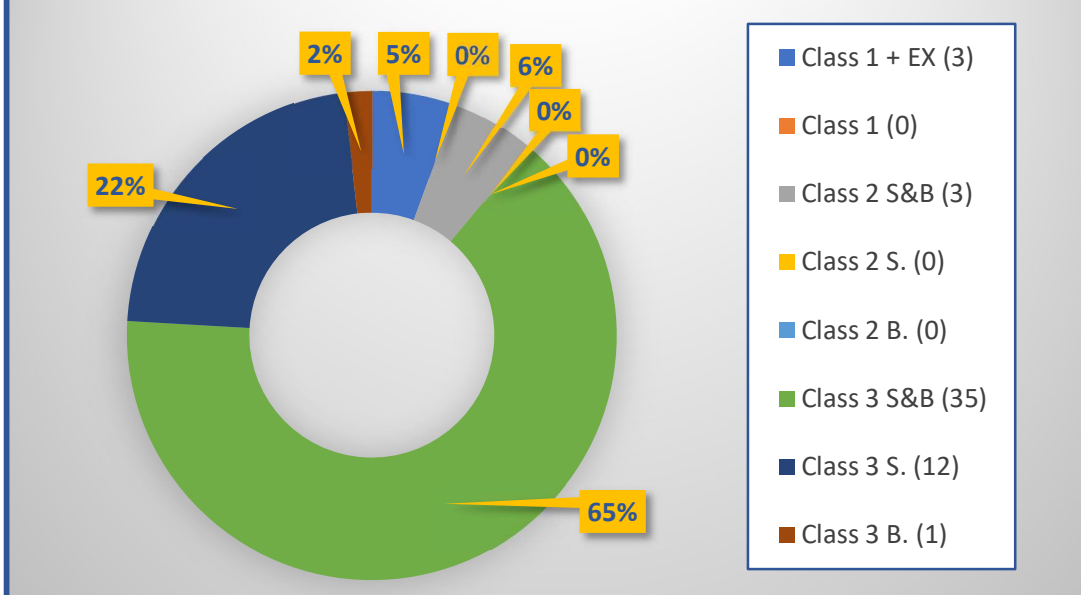
New accreditations obtained during 2022-23 training workshops totalled 10 which is a pleasing result, and there are still a few candidates who deferred their assessments for personal reasons. However, these were offset by the loss of 5 existing Referees primarily for health-related issues and no longer being interested. This is further compounded by others dealing with severe medical and age-related restrictions which will likely see their retirement during next financial year.

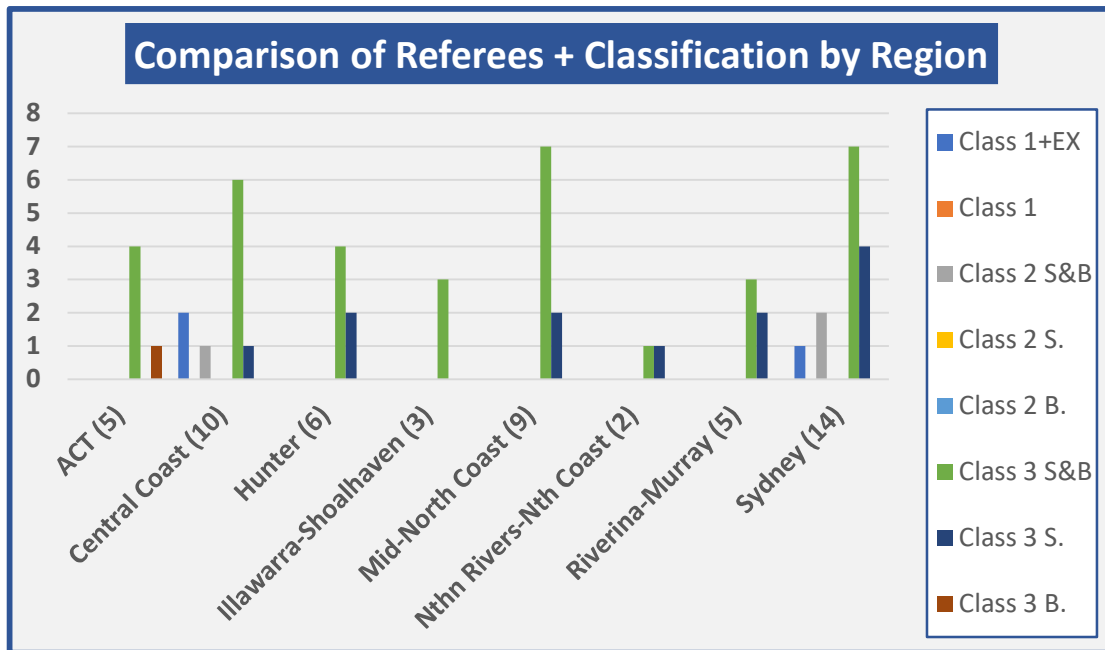
[The total number of NSW certified referees as at 30/06/23 was 54 \(including ACT\).  
A breakdown of this number by Region is provided below:](#)

### Distribution of Total Referees (54) - by Region



### Total Referees (54) - by Classification Level





Initial response to strategies devised in the post-Covid period at increasing our certified referees has been very positive to date. Four separate training workshops have now been conducted utilizing our own self-developed program, which continues to be updated and tweaked as we proceed.

Two referee training workshops were conducted during 2022-23. One at Ramsgate RSL in Nov-Dec 2022 for six candidates, with four successfully obtaining their Class 3 Snooker & Billiards certification, with the other two not completing the course. The second workshop at Club Forster in May 2023 for eight candidates was not as successful, with one not completing the course, four failing their assessment and three deferring their assessment for personal reasons.

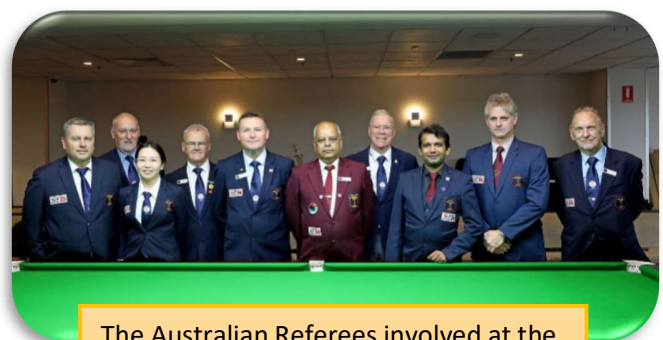
A total of 25 candidates have now attended our training workshops with each providing very positive feedback on the overall format and program content. We are receiving a good response to the SBNSW website *“Expression of Interest in Becoming a Referee”* online option, and it is generating a steady stream of contacts for our ideal goal of one training workshop every six months.

Importantly, these workshops represent the first formalised and coordinated Referee training activity conducted by SBNSW in the Sydney area for many, many years. On that basis alone, the steps taken to date by the Board and training facilitators can be regarded as successful and a sound platform upon which to build further.

Training workshops will continue to be planned and organised subject to the level of Expressions of Interest and enquiries received through the SBNSW website or by contacting the State Director of Referees.

## The following highlights are noted for 2022-23:

- Congratulations to **Gareth King**, who received his upgrade to **Class 2** in September 2022 and promptly celebrated by officiating the Final of the South Pacific Open Snooker later that same afternoon. But three weeks later it was to get even better still, when Gareth was selected to control his very first Bob Hawke Australian Open Snooker Final. *Well done, Jim!*
- Congratulations to new Referees **Greg Aghayan** (Class 3 Snooker & Billiards) and **Patrick Gauci** (Class 3 Snooker) who graduated from the training workshop conducted at Hornsby RSL, with their assessments completed in August/September 2022. *Welcome aboard.*
- **Tim Hilton** and **Kelvyn Marshall** are also to be congratulated. Both have demonstrated a great deal of passion and commitment towards the role since obtaining their Class 3 Snooker certification in December 2021 and have now successfully added Class 3 Billiards, which results in full Class 3 Snooker & Billiards status. *Very well done to both.* **Tim Hilton** was also recognised for his overall progress by being appointed to control the U18 Snooker Final at this year's Australian Junior Championships at Albury.
- It's great to see some activity from our ACT neighbours with four new Referees certified in November 2022 all welcome additions to our ranks. Congratulations to **Ken Bromley** (Class 3 Snooker & Billiards), **Fred Johnson** (Class 3 Billiards), **Nick Payne** (Class 3 Snooker & Billiards), and **Ian Rayson** (Class 3 Snooker & Billiards). *Welcome to the team guys.*
- Our training workshop in November last year at Ramsgate RSL produced four new Referees. Congratulations to **Hal Benson**, **Marko Celin**, **Mike Fogg** and **David Waller** who each qualified for Class 3 Snooker & Billiards. *Best wishes to all on your future refereeing careers.*
- **Janice Orr** (Class 3 Snooker) at Albury is another recent certification. *Congratulations Janice.*
- The major international competition for 2023 was undoubtedly the WSF Open Snooker & WSF U18 Snooker, which also incorporated an Asia Pacific-WWS event for the ladies. This was a fantastic 12 days of snooker held at Mounties which featured some of the world's leading amateur players. Approximately 15 international Referees were involved, with 6 Referees from interstate and only five from NSW selected to officiate during this event. Congratulations to those five:



The Australian Referees involved at the 2023 WSF Championships at Mounties

- **David Battensby, Gareth King, Gary Knight, Kelvyn Marshall, and Trevor Webber.**

- **Gareth King** and **Gary Knight** received invitations from the NZBSA to attend the APSBF Open Snooker & 6 Reds Snooker in Auckland NZ in April. Both received the honour of refereeing a Final; Gary the 6 Reds and Gareth the Open, which was his first international Final. *Another first, Jim, you're certainly building up an impressive resume!*

- Congratulations to Ballina's **Ray McNaughton** who turned 95 on May 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Ray is still very much an active Referee at the local RSL club and members greatly appreciate his spritely contributions. So much so, that they surprised him with a birthday cake to mark the special occasion. *I wonder just how many of us will still be pulling on the white gloves at a similar age?*



- Congratulations to **David Battensby**, who officiated his first State Final in the State Major Billiards (Timed), and **Glen Wallace**, who officiated his first State Final in the State Minor Billiards (Timed).
- **Phil Gunns** deserves special mention for his effort during the year in officiating in five separate Finals (State Seniors Snooker, State Minors Snooker, State Snooker, State Women's Snooker, Sydney Open Billiards). *Keep up the high standards Phil.*

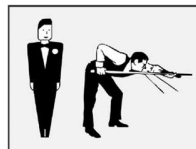


In closing, Referees will always be just as big a part of our Sport as the players.

Therefore, enquiries from anyone wishing to know more about becoming a certified Referee would always be warmly received and I can be contacted directly or via the Referees' section on the SBNSW website. I look forward to hearing from all members interested in supporting our great Sport.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy 2023-24 financial year.

**Gary Knight**  
**State Director of Referees**  
**For Snooker & Billiards Association of NSW Inc.**



*Report prepared and submitted in conjunction with SBNSW's 106<sup>th</sup> AGM.*