

## BOARD MINUTES FOR: February 2025

### Northland Rugby Referees Association Board Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025		
<b>Time:</b>	5.30 pm – 7.23pm		
<b>Location:</b>	NRU Board Room		
<b>Attendees:</b>	Simon Millar, Llew Smart, Zac Langridge, John Hammond, Graeme Frank, Rob Rush, Janette Allen.		
<b>Apologies:</b>	None		
Topic			
Topic		Discussion	Action
<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>			SM
<b>Previous Minutes</b>		Minutes from 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 – moved ZL, Second JH - carried	SM
<b>Correspondence</b>		Message out to clubs from NRU & SM reply from NRRA	JA
<b>Chairman's Report</b>		Report as tabled – moved ZL, Second JH – carried. <b>ACTION POINT:</b> SM to clarify JA contract from Fixed Term to Permanent.	SM
<b>Judicial</b>		Contact with JD, update for 2025 & review	LS
<b>Council of Unions Report</b>		No report. <b>ACTION POINT:</b> JA to chase minutes from NRU & send out to Board	LS
<b>RA Report</b>		Report as tabled – moved LS, second JH - carried	JA
<b>Coaching &amp; Development</b>		No report – concern with how many teams are going to League in BOI, esp. U13, U14 & 15.	GF
<b>REO Report</b>		Report as tabled – moved GF, Second SM - carried	RR
<b>Commercial/Finance Report</b>		No report – ZL has contacted Orbit Audit to perform an assurance review for 2023 for Incorporated Societies filing – Board has approved this.	ZL
<b>Comms Report</b>		No report	SM
<b>Sponsorship / Funding</b>		No report – New flag sponsor in final stages. Details next meeting.	ZL
<b>General Business</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tasman Exchange – 24 May 2025 – motion to approve Tasman exchange with a budget of \$3000 depending how many refs – moved SM, second LS – carried. <b>ACTION POINT:</b> RR &amp; GF to decide who may be selected and report back to ensure enough time to make necessary bookings.</li><li>Open Day – planning going well, not many replies <b>ACTION POINT:</b> JA to email Board with names of members who have already rsvp'd and then to chase in own region.</li><li>Review of Strategic goals from January minutes – grow our numbers – recruitment, retention of referees, keep MER, keep Prizegiving – important to keep refs coming back, funding and sponsorship. <b>ACTION POINT:</b> SM to draft new Strategic Plan</li></ul>	

		<b>ACTION POINT:</b> JA to change next Board meeting from 17 March to 24 <sup>th</sup> March to enable a guest speaker	
	<b>Resolutions to Pass/Change</b>	<b>RESOLUTION:</b> NRRA to apply to Grassroots Trust for funding for Referee Administrator wages for the month of April 2025 for the amount of \$4615.38. Moved SM, second LS – carried.	

Meeting closed: 7.23pm

Next meeting: Monday 24 March 2025 at 5.30pm

Signed as a true and correct record:



Simon Millar (Chair)

## Chairmans Report January 2025

### Chairman's Report – February 2025

#### Chairman's Report – February 2025

##### Accounts

We have made significant progress with the accounts, thanks to Zac for his hard work. His efforts have put us in a strong position to finalise the 2023 accounts, ensuring they are ready to be presented to the members.

##### Referee Administrator role

Additionally, we have successfully worked through the process of securing Janette as our Referee Administrator. A big thank you to Janette for her patience and dedication throughout this transition.

##### Open Day

We have also secured the date for the Open Day to officially launch the season. Both Janette and Rob have worked hard to ensure everything is in place for the day, including updates on the new **Rugby Xplorer** system, which will be used for referee appointments moving forward.

##### Referee levy correspondence

An issue was raised regarding correspondence sent to clubs about the referee levy. In response, we have engaged with the NRU to address the matter and ensure clearer communication with the wider rugby community moving forward.

##### 2025 Goals

Looking ahead, the 2025 Board is focused on setting clear expectations and goals for the year. We are committed to working towards initiatives that will strengthen the association and put us in a strong position for the future.

Thank you to everyone for your continued efforts and support.

Simon Millar

## REO REPORT- February 2025

### NZR COMMS

Focus for the start of the year has been organising content for RugbySmart (RS) courses. Emphasis will be on the EDSLVS 2025 Game Innovations especially the new laws:

1. **Emphasis on referees completing boot checks** – no burred or sharp edges, not longer than 21mm- bring back your pre- game boot check.
2. **“Croc Roll” has been banned**- the method of removing players from ruck area has been removed from law- sanctioned according to the level of danger to jackler.
3. **Tackle Height (all grades)**- Continuation of EDSLVS, in particular the below the sternum tackle height.
4. **Halfback Offside (all grades)**- same as last year.
5. **1.5m Max Push (excluding Prem Rugby)**- same as last year- Important to remember that “game on” will not be used in Women’s Prem rugby this year.
6. **Creating space**- off side players no longer allowed to be put onside by actions of the opposition players.
7. **Lineout option**- no challenge in the air meaning play on when throw is crooked.

I attended the NZR REO conference last week in Wellington. Safety was the focus area and what that looks like in RugbySmart 2025. Also the need to push hard on the hard launch of the Community Rugby Referee Development Framework (CRRDF).

**RugbySmart 2025-** RugbySmart will NOT be offered online this year and is **compulsory** for all referees to be completed at Sub- Union level. Focus areas:

- ☐ Concussion- 4 R's o **Recognise** – signs and symptoms; red flags; **Remove** via blue card process; **Recover** – first 48 hours response and **Return** – via GRTP. Graduated return to play. Not only on referees but coaches and managers to report via BC reporting.
- ☐ **EDSLV's**- as above
- ☐ **Warm- Up for Referees** – acceleration/deceleration, change of direction. - Design of an appropriate warm-up session tailored to the specific needs of the team/player/referee.
- ☐ **Tackling from referee view**- Identify key points of a safe tackle - Understanding of foul play law and how to manage, with an emphasis on understanding the head contact process.
- ☐ **At Scrum**- expectation when the ball is playable post collapse- is it safe?.
- ☐ **Serious Injury Report**- these are the ONLY injuries that must be reported to NZR: head or spinal injury, or medical event (e.g. a heart attack) that results in the player being admitted to hospital; An injury or medical event (e.g. a heart attack) that results in the death of a player during match play or rugby training; An injury that is expected to result in some permanent disability (e.g. loss of use of a limb, loss of an eye. **For NRU** any injury that results in an ambulance and hospital visit needs to be reported.

NOTE: . Every referee needs to attend one of the following sessions

- ☐ A Sub- Union F2F practical session- BOI
- ☐ Mop Up sessions- TBC

**Police Vetting 2025-** Police Vetting Overview:

- ☐ All referees upon registering for the 2025 season fill out a form for this to be done- part of the new RX registration process. No cost to the association. Board needs to have a process in place if someone comes back as not being suitable. MUST SIGHT DRIVER'S LICENCES AT OPEN DAY before vetting can be processed.

 Completed	 In Progress	 Not Started
---	---	---

**Coaching & Grading-** Coaching of referees takes on a new look this year with a number of initiatives to improve the quality of our referees in line with the CRRDF which I have discussed over the last 2 years. Nutta from NZR is coming up Monday March 24 and wants a meeting with the Board and other

stakeholders to go over the new framework and answer any questions surrounding what that looks like heading forward. New role in this space will be an observer who will do a report on referees who wish. Those coaches who wish to get other observers to watch their referees, that is fine. However, all communication must be feed back to their coach where applicable and plans mapped out accordingly. Expectation is that every referee will have at least two observations for the year to confirm they are refereeing at their right level.

**BOARD Level- Confirm start time for meeting with Nutta- Mon March 24**

**REO Level- Support coaches were applicable if required. Confirm dates for this post Open day.**

**REO Level- Year end everyone will have been graded in line with CRRDF.**

🟢 Completed	🟡 In Progress	🔴 Not Started
-------------	---------------	---------------

**Teaching & Learning-** Modules 1-5 will be sent out in the next 2 weeks and will be the basis for all learning this year. Have been put together at national level but can be adapted to suit our space. Will work within the framework around the 5 pillars. Lesson plans will be available for referees in the South Zone and saves a lot of the planning involved with running sessions. I will forward those once we have a schedule of what that looks like in the South Zone and I have had a chance to look over the material. Law Exam 2025 is available now and has been updated to include new EDSLVS's. This is one of the pillars so I recommend having a study up before attempting the first time around.

**NRRA Website-** Our functionality in the Sporty programme remains the same. Some of our reports will be completed in that space until RX is completely up and running. We are running dual systems but that cannot be helped until RX has competition games loaded on the system. At the moment we have only 15 referees who have registered to the Northland RRA through Rugby Explorer.

That my Board report for February 2025 be recieved.

Moved:

Seconded:



Ngā mihi,  
Rob Rush  
REO- North Zone

RA Report February 2025.

- SOP's
- Appointments – pre-season
- Open Day planning
- Starting to look at the website
- Lots of ref contact
- WBHS game payment – want to support us