VOLLEYBALL MANAWATŪ

REFEREE QUALIFICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Approved 17 September 2026

Background

Volleyball New Zealand has a requirement that referees for their events held regionally need to be a qualified Regional Referee.

In addition, in order to apply to become a qualified National Referee, the candidate must already be a qualified Regional Referee.

It is a requirement that each volleyball region have a system to qualify their regional referees.

Policies

1. All officiating referees at Volleyball Manawatū competitions and sanctioned events are required to have the appropriate level of referee qualification.

2. The requirements for referees for specific Volleyball Manawatū events may be defined in an event manual.

3. Volleyball Manawatū is responsible for determining course and assessment requirements for the referees.

4. Volleyball Manawatu is responsible for determining requirements for its referees to maintain accreditation including the authority to review and/or revoke the accreditation.

Procedures

These procedures outline the referee qualification requirements and pathways administered by Volleyball Manawatū. It applies to all individuals seeking to officiate Volleyball Manawatū competitions, events, and representative programmes, including volunteer, developing, and appointed referees.

They do not replace Volleyball New Zealand national referee accreditation requirements for national competitions. Where national policies or international regulations apply, those requirements take precedence.

These procedures establish the minimum standards for referee accreditation, assessment, ongoing development, and appointment within the region. It aligns with the national referee framework developed by Volleyball New Zealand while providing regional processes for training, mentoring, practical assessment, and maintaining qualifications.

These procedures apply to:

- Referees officiating Volleyball Manawatū competitions and sanctioned events;
- Individuals participating in Regional Referee education or assessment programmes;
- Referee course delivery, assessors, and mentors appointed by Volleyball Manawatū; and
- Competition organisers responsible for referee appointments within Volleyball Manawatū events.

The policy covers both indoor and beach volleyball referee qualifications where regional accreditation pathways have been established by Volleyball New Zealand.

Volleyball Manawatu holds the authority to determine course and assessment requirements for Local and Regional Referee Qualifications. The association may also provide recommendations to Volleyball New Zealand on applicants within the Manawatu region seeking a National Referee Qualification course.

Local Referee

A local referee is a trained official who officiates volleyball matches within their local community or school, ensuring games are played fairly, safely and according to the rules.

Local Referee coursing is administered through Volleyball New Zealand's online course or Volleyball Manawatu in-person course. Practical application is reviewed through Volleyball Manawatu leagues and competitions.

Regional Referee

A regional referee is a qualified official who officiates volleyball matches at regional competitions, applying the rules consistently and supporting the development of players, coaches and officials.

Regional Referee qualification is a multi-faceted process.

A Regional Referee Candidate is one that has:

- Completed a Regional Referee Course, **and**
- Completed and passed a Regional Referee Theory Exam.

Regional Referee Candidates may then have practical assessments performed. Regional Referee Practical Assessments are completed by a National or higher qualified referee by supervision of a series of duties. Assessments are aligned to Volleyball New Zealand's Guide

Document for Local to National Referees. Volleyball Manawatu will support candidates at **appropriate level competitions** for practical assessments, done by MRVA approved assessors. Volleyball Manawatū will maintain a list of the approved assessors.

The following assessments must be completed, passed to a Regional Qualified Referee standard and recorded with Volleyball Manawatu within 3 years of the applicants course. Failure to complete the Regional Qualification in this timeframe will remove candidacy eligibility and require participants to re-sit a course and theory exam.

Regional Candidate Assessments:

- 1st Referee x2 match assessments
- 2nd Referee x2 match assessments
- Scoresheet x1 match assessment

Upon completion, a Regional Referee Candidate will be appointed and recognised as a Qualified Regional Referee Qualification. Qualified Regional Referees will receive a certificate of qualification and be added to Volleyball New Zealand's Referee database. Referees within the database will receive updates to regulations and workshops.

Qualified Referees must maintain accreditation by maintaining Volleyball Manawatu membership and its obligations and keep active in referee duties of sanctioned events and continued education, including new rules updates and workshops. The sanctioned events do not need to be Volleyball Manawatū events, for example may include a national special interest tournament.

Unless Volleyball Manawatū decides otherwise, the referee qualification will automatically lapse 3 years after three years of inactivity.

Volleyball Manawatū holds the authority to

- Decide which events outside of Volleyball Manawatū's are deemed equivalent for the purpose of qualified referees maintaining accreditation

- Decide a specific path to Volleyball Manawatū accreditation for a person already holding a referring qualification outside of Volleyball Manawatū or Volleyball New Zealand

- Review and /or revoke any Manawatu referee's qualification at any time to ensure proper standards are upheld.