



BC SOCCER

BC Soccer
Referee Provincial Program

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1. Introduction

a. Purpose

The Provincial Program for Referees is designed to bring together identified Referees from the Regional and Provincial classification streams into the performance training and game environments. The program's focus is to support each Referee's development while also creating an overall environment that allows scouting opportunities for the BC Soccer Provincial Upgrading and National Nominations with Canada Soccer.

b. Objectives

1. The purpose of this program will concentrate efforts towards the development and growth of the top tier referees in the province.
2. Provide emphasis of the Referees Development pathway through the BC SPL, Provincial Program/Vancouver Whitecaps (Youth), University and College competition and League1 BC.
3. Develop a platform for advancement of Referees to the Provincial and National Lists.
4. Highlight and implement a standards-based approach with respect to performance measures and level of professionalism.

c. Overview

The Referee Provincial Program selects referees that are currently Regional and/or Provincial and/or are participating in the Referee Upgrading programs. The program runs annually and broken down into two phases:

1. Phase 01: Education
 - Consisting of practical training sessions, in-person training camps and in-class/on-field training
2. Phase 02: In-Season
 - Consisting of Match Officiating, Coaching and assessments.

The Referee Provincial Program highlights pools of Referees to officiate within specified leagues and high competition calibers that match competencies and promote development of referees.

The Referee Provincial Program is in line with the BC Referee Pathway fostering a learning environment for Referees along the Performance Pathway seeking National Nomination.

d. Cost

With the effort to minimize the cost of participation, there is only a one-time kit fee for participation in the program. The technical programming, including three assessments, education camp, supplementary education sessions, and FIFA Fitness tests, is free.

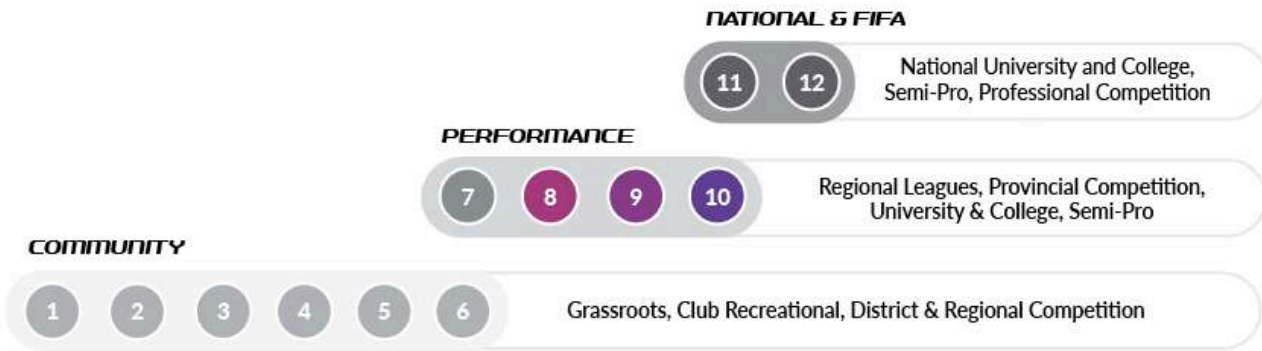
2. Referee Provincial Program

a. Recruitment Process

Referees who have attained a Regional classification or higher are invited to participate in the program. District referees may be invited to the program on a recommendation basis through the submission of the Referee Profile by BC SPL club head referees or other member association head referees.

b. Education & Development Pathway

Referees identified along the Performance Pathway, who are graded between 8-10 illustrated in the Referee Pathway below, are targeted and considered for this program.



The Referees progressing through the Performance Pathway are then provided with additional services covering technical, tactical, mental, and physical development. The purpose is to better support the Referees’ overall development by providing them with the following on-field services:

Activity	Description	Frequency	Hours
Education Session	Educational in class and on-field sessions throughout the program	10	20
Education Camp	Pre-Season educational camp in preparation for upcoming season with focus on practical training and in-class theory.	1-2	8-48
Performance Reports	Informal, in-season coaching performance reports that identify strengths and areas of improvement.	On-going	On-going
Assessment	Formal, in-season performance evaluations that are at or above competency for their specified grade.	3	N/A
Games	Provide support the Referees progression into higher levels of officiating and roles.	On-going	On-going
Fitness Testing	Providing an opportunity to measure the Referee’s physical output across speed, endurance, and power. Referees must successfully complete this as a requirement of the program	1-2	3-6

c. Program Requirements

BC Soccer will communicate a call for Expression of Interest to current Regional and Provincial Referees.

Program Entry Requirements:

- Currently an active registered Referee and in good standing with BC Soccer.
- Must be classified as any of the following along the Performance Pathway
 - Grade 8 currently enrolled in the Regional Upgrade Program
 - Grade 9
 - Grade 9 currently enrolled in the Provincial Upgrade Program or
 - Grade 10 official.

Supplementary components may be reviewed upon application for entry:

- Recommendation through the BC Soccer Referee Profile
- Pre-season screening match appointments.
- Assessment review from previous season/year. Fitness

d. Development Support Team

The development support team for the Referee Provincial Program consists of Assessors and Instructors. These roles are vital to the development of officials both in the classroom and on the field. Assessors and Instructors within the program must have at least Regional certification, but District Assessors and Instructors may be invited to participate in the program for mentorship and evaluation. The final selection of Assessors and Instructors is completed by BC Soccer.

3. Frequently Asked Questions

When does the Provincial Program season take place?

Referees are notified of their acceptance into the program in December-January. In-person training sessions are held on a biweekly basis from the start of the calendar year until the start of the League 1 BC Season. During the L1BC and CanWest seasons, emphasis is on on-field coaching/assessments, although in-person training sessions continue on a less frequent schedule throughout the rest of the year.

Who is selected into the Provincial Program?

Referees must have at least a Regional certification to be invited into the program. Referees can be recommended into the program by BC SPL club head referees or other member associations. Final selection is by BC Soccer Staff and Contractors based on performances, fitness, and assessments.

What financial costs are there for selected referees?

To minimize the cost of participation to the player, the cost of the program is free. There is only a one-time kit fee for participation in the program (see Referee Uniform in the appendix).

What matches can Provincial Program Referees officiate?

Provincial Program Referees are eligible to officiate matches at the highest level within the province. This includes League 1 BC matches as well as CanWest University matches. They are also eligible for provincial and national tournaments. Final appointments and nominations are based on performance.

4. Appendix

a. Referee Uniform/Apparel

Referees will receive new uniforms and apparel such as that pictured below (availability and style of uniforms/apparel are subject to inventory availability):

Referees are expected to wear the provided uniform/apparel at all BC Soccer assigned matches and BC Soccer hosted training sessions/fitness tests.



b. BC Soccer Staff

The BC Soccer Referee Development Staff leads the program with support from identified referee instructors and assessors within the BC Soccer Membership. The program leads include:



Hagen Herold
Referee Development Coordinator



Alain Ruch
Referee Technical Advisor
National Referee



Tiberio de Frias
Referee Assignor
National Assessor, Provincial Instructor

c. Referee Progression

The Provincial Program in its current format has seen several referees advance from the program to Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program as well as the National List. Currently, there are 6 male referees and 6 female referees from the Provincial Program that have been accepted into National Programming. Additionally, 2 assistant referees from the program were accepted onto the national list in 2023.

Female

Sydney Berridge (Maple Ridge) became a referee in 2013. Her progress through the development pathway led her to become a Regional referee in 2018 and she completed her provincial upgrade in 2021. She was first accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023, and she was the referee for the 2023 League 1 BC Women's Final.

Hannah Browning (Victoria) first took the entry level referee course in 2009. She quickly progressed through the development pathway, completing her regional upgrade in 2016, followed by her provincial upgrade in 2017. She was the referee for the inaugural League 1 BC Women's Final in 2022, and she was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development program in 2023.

Kelsey Carrothers (Victoria) started refereeing in 2015. Two years later in 2017, she completed her Regional Upgrade, and she became a provincial referee in 2019. She was appointed as 4th official in the inaugural League 1 BC Women's Final in 2022, and she has taken part in several national tournaments. She joined Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023.

After playing at the University Level for many years, Heather Lloyd (Kamloops) became a referee in 2019. She quickly earned high level University and League 1 BC appointments as an AR, and she was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2024. She is currently completing her Regional Upgrade.

O-Lin Metz (Nanaimo) became a referee in 2014 and she completed her regional upgrade in 2022. She has been appointed as AR to each of the first two League 1 BC Women's finals, and she is currently completing her provincial upgrade. She was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023.

Victoria Warner (Kamloops) first took the entry level referee course in 2017. She has officiated at several provincial and national tournaments and regularly officiates high level soccer in Kamloops. She completed her regional upgrade in 2023, and she was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2024.

Male

Eray Demirtas (Izmir, Turkey) first became a referee in Turkey in 2014. After coming to Canada in 2021, he quickly earned high level appointments in League 1 BC, University Games, and MSL Next Pro matches. He was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program and completed his Provincial Upgrade in 2023.

Theo Diedrichsen (Saskatoon/Vancouver) first became a referee in 2016 in Saskatchewan. He came to BC to study in 2021, and he has been earning high level appointments as AR in League 1 BC, University Games, MSL Next Pro, and CPL matches. He became a regional referee in 2017 completed his provincial upgrade in 2021 and joined Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023.

Chris Harrop (Coquitlam) first took the entry level referee course in 2015. He completed his regional upgrade in 2019 and became a provincial referee in 2022, He has been appointed as AR to several provincial and national tournaments, including the 2023 League 1 BC Men's Final.

Niko Jecanski first became a referee in 2008. He took the regional upgrade course in 2019 and completed the provincial upgrade in 2022. He has been appointed to several high-level games in League 1 BC, University Games, and MLS Next Pro as well as the CPL. He was accepted into Canda Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023.

Amer Ramic began his refereeing career in Alberta in 2018. He became a regional referee in 2022 and completed his provincial upgrade in 2023. He has since officiated many high-level games in University matches, National Tournaments, and League 1 BC, including the League 1 BC Men's Final in 2023. He was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2023.

David Schmidt Schweda (Comox) became a referee in 2012. He has since progressed steadily through the development pathway, becoming a regional referee in 2015 and a provincial referee in 2021. He has been appointed to several high-level games in League 1 BC, University Matches, and the CPL. He was accepted into Canda Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2022.

Prem Gundarah (Richmond) took the entry level referee course in 2015. He has since progressed quickly along the development pathway, earning his regional upgrade in 2018 and his provincial upgrade in 2021, the same year that he was accepted into Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program. He was added to the national list of assistant referees in 2023 and has since regularly officiated in the Canadian Premier League.

Michael Hood (Sidney) became a referee in 2001. He progressed steadily along the development pathway, becoming a regional referee in 2015 and earning his provincial upgrade in 2018. He joined Canada Soccer's Elite Development Program in 2020, and he was appointed to the national list of assistant referees in 2023. He has since regularly officiated in the Canadian Premier League.