



NZIHA Referee qualification

system

This document outlines the requirements an individual is required to meet to obtain each individual level as an NZIHA referee. The referee level system is overseen by the NZIHA Referee panel and the NZIHA Chief referee.

The available levels are Level 1 through to Level 6.

Advancement

The available levels are designed to encourage ongoing training and improvement by an individual to better develop their skills and knowledge of the game. The referee panel encourages the advancement of younger officials who show the requisite knowledge, dedication and ability necessary to progress to each level.

After a period of three years at a level without advancement an official must re-sit and pass the examination for their current level or apply for assessment for the next level above. Failure to do so may result in certification lapsing.

Maintaining Certification

An official that has achieved certification at Level 4 or above must actively referee in their local region and attend a minimum of 1 of the following major events per year:

- Mount Wellington Invitational (Bauer Cup) in Auckland.
- Ravens Queen's Birthday Invitational in New Plymouth.
- National Club Championships (location varies).
- Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies).
- Any other sanctioned NZIHA tournament that has been approved by the referee panel for assessment purposes.

Failure to do so may result in certification lapsing.

The referee panel has the right to perform random assessments and evaluations of any official. The referee panel has the right to revoke certification for any official who is not achieving the criteria required to meet their current qualification level.

Inactive Officials

If an official has been inactive for a period of two or more years, the certification for that official will lapse. If the official wishes to re-gain their qualification they are required to re-sit and pass the examination for their most recently achieved level in order to be re-instated to that level. If the official fails their re-certification examination they will be reinstated as an official at one level below their most recently achieved level. After a 6-month active period of refereeing the official may re-apply for advancement to the next level.

Levels and Requirements

Level 1

- Any individual seeking to gain Level 1 certification must be a minimum of 12 years of age.
- The individual must attend and complete a full Level 1 clinic held by the referee panel.
- The individual must obtain a minimum of 70% on a written examination, to be completed and returned at the conclusion of the Level 1 clinic.
- Upon completion of the Level 1 requirements, the official should receive a certificate with a Level 1 certification sticker affixed and a NZIHA Officials card.

Level 2

- Any individual seeking to gain Level 2 certification must be a minimum of 14 years of age.
- Any Level 1 official may apply for promotion to Level 2 provided they have been fully certified at Level 1 and have actively refereed at that level for a minimum of six months.
- The official must attend and referee at one of the following major annual events:
 - Mount Wellington Invitational (Bauer Cup) in Auckland.
 - Ravens Queen's Birthday Invitational in New Plymouth.
 - National Club Championships (location varies).
 - Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies).

- Any other sanctioned NZIHA tournament that has been approved by the referee panel for assessment purposes.
- The official must pass a practical, on-rink evaluation performed by a member of the referee panel over the course of a minimum of 3 games at the event.
- The official must obtain a minimum of 70% on a written examination, to be completed and returned prior to the completion of the event.
- Upon successful completion of examination and on-rink supervision, the official should receive a Level 2 sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level 1).

Level 3

- Any Level 2 referee may apply for promotion to Level 3 provided they have been fully certified at Level 2 and have regularly refereed for a minimum of two years at that level. Level 2 referees who are 18 years of age or older and wish to proceed to Level 3 may be considered for advancement after a minimum of one year refereeing at Level 2, at the discretion of the referee panel.
- The official must attend and referee at one of the following major annual events:
 - Mount Wellington Invitational (Bauer Cup) in Auckland.
 - Ravens Queen's Birthday Invitational in New Plymouth.
 - National Club Championships (location varies).
 - Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies).
 - Any other sanctioned NZIHA tournament that has been approved by the referee panel for assessment purposes.
- The official must be available for a minimum of 2 full days to referee at the event.
- The official must pass a practical, on-rink evaluation performed by a member of the referee panel over the course of a minimum of 3 games at the event.
- The official must obtain a minimum of 70% on a written examination, to be completed and returned prior to the completion of the event.
- The official must have full correct referees uniform, including the following:
 - Black referee pants designed for officiating with pockets.
 - Black helmet designed for hockey.
 - Clear half visor correctly affixed to helmet.
 - Official NZIHA Referee shirt.
 - Finger whistle designed for hockey with correct pitch.

- Upon successful completion of examination and on-rink supervision, the official should receive a Level 3 sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level 1).

Level 4

- Progression to Level 4 will be by invitation only. Certification at Level 3 does not automatically make one eligible for Level 4.
- The official must meet all requirements for Level 3 in addition to the requirements for Level 4.
- An official at Level 4 will have a thorough knowledge of the playing rules and the role of an official.
- The official must attend and referee at one of the following major annual events:
 - National Club Championships (location varies).
 - Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies).
- The official must be available to referee for at least three full days at the event, or the equivalent of 8 games. The applicant must be capable of refereeing games up to and including Senior grade, and playoff games up to and including the Under 19 grade.
- The official must obtain a minimum of 80% on a written examination, to be completed and returned prior to the completion of the event.
- The official must pass a practical, on-rink evaluation performed by a member of the referee panel over the course of a minimum of 3 games at the event.
- The official must be physically fit and capable of skating to the speed required of the Under 19 or Senior grade.
- Upon successful completion of examination and on-rink supervision, the official should receive a Level 4 sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level 1).
- Where an official seeking to obtain Level 4 certification fails the practical on-rink evaluation, certification will not be validated. However, the official may request a second evaluation. The second evaluation will be undertaken at the convenience of the referee panel.
- A Level 4 official must regularly attend major annual events in order to maintain their Level 4 status.
- Officials certified to Level 4 may be invited to referee at the Oceania Hockey Championships.

Level 5

- Progression to Level 5 will be by invitation only. Certification at Level 4 does not automatically make one eligible for Level 5.
- The official must meet all requirements for Level 4 in addition to the requirements for Level 5.
- The official must attend and referee at one of the following major annual events:
 - National Club Championships (location varies)
 - Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies)
- The official must be available to referee for at least three full days at the event, or the equivalent of 8 games. The applicant must be capable of refereeing games up to and including Premier grade, and playoff games up to Senior grade.
- The official must obtain a minimum of 80% on a written examination, to be completed and returned prior to the completion of the event.
- The official must pass a practical, on-rink evaluation, performed by two members of the referee panel over the course of a minimum of 4 games at the event.
- The official must be physically fit and capable of skating to the speed required of a Premier level game.
- Upon successful completion of examination and on-rink supervision, the official should receive a Level 5 sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level 1).
- Where an official seeking to obtain Level 4 certification fails the practical on-rink evaluation, certification will not be validated. However, the official may request a second evaluation. The second evaluation will be undertaken at the convenience of the referee panel.
- All officials that obtain Level 5 certification are required to undertake annual assessment at one of the major annual events listed above in order to maintain their Level 5 status.
- Referees certified to Level 5 may be invited to attend international events that New Zealand teams are attending.

Level 6

- Progression to Level 6 will be by invitation only. Certification at Level 5 does not automatically make one eligible for Level 6.
- The official must meet all requirements for Level 5 in addition to the requirements for Level 6.
- The official must attend and referee at one of the following major annual events:
 - National Club Championships (location varies)
 - Inter-Regional Championships including Super League (location varies)

- The official must be available to referee for at least three full days at the event, or the equivalent of 8 games. The applicant must be capable of refereeing games up to and including Premier grade playoff games.
- The official must obtain a minimum of 90% on a written examination, to be completed and returned prior to the completion of the event.
- The official must pass a practical, on-rink evaluation, performed by the NZIHA Chief Referee and at least one other member of the referee panel over the course of a minimum of 4 games at the event.
- The official must be physically fit and capable of skating to the speed required of a Premier level game.
- Upon successful completion of examination and on-rink supervision, the official should receive a Level 6 sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level 1).
- Where an official seeking to obtain Level 4 certification fails the practical on-rink evaluation, certification will not be validated. However, the official may request a second evaluation. The second evaluation will be undertaken at the convenience of the referee panel.
- All officials that obtain Level 6 certification are required to undertake annual assessment at one of the major annual events listed above in order to maintain their Level 6 status.
- Referees certified to Level 6 may be invited to attend international events that New Zealand teams are attending.