



CASE STUDY:

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PROMOTING
AND SUPPORTING SQUASH

SQUASH BAY OF PLENTY



SQUASH
NEW ZEALAND

OVERVIEW

Referees are a crucial part of organised and competitive squash, ensuring games are conducted safely and are played in accordance with sanctioned rules and regulations. Becoming a referee is a great way for players and coaches to increase their rule knowledge, plus you get the best seat in the house at every match. For those who have ambitions to officiate at the highest level, there is a structure in place to help you get there. However, the negative on and off-court interactions between players and referees are well known to put a lot of people off from pursuing and remaining involved as a referee. Squash Bay of Plenty understand this and have put together a Refereeing Action Plan for 2017. This has produced some excellent results so far.

CHALLENGES

Motivation

People choose to referee for a wide range of reasons, from wanting to help their family and friends play, to wanting to referee at an international event. People also choose to not referee for a number of reasons...

Qualifications

To become a referee you need to pass an online exam and satisfy the assessment criteria. To do this you need to know the rules and regulations of the game, how to manage and match and make decisions.

Advancement

All referees need the backing of a formal assessment process to ensure they are at a standard suitable for the level of competition. This is often limited by resources and access to approved personnel.

SOLUTIONS

Requirement

Squash Bay of Plenty made it compulsory to be qualified (by a certain date) as a club referee to play interclub. This also contributes to players having a better understanding of the game to lift their performance on court.

Training and Workshops

A prominent way of learning is through attending development workshops as well as other informal learning through reading resources and talking with other referees.

Mentoring

Within the existing referee ranks and pathway there is a lot of knowledge, support and guidance that can be acquired from already qualified District or National referees.

RESULTS

22.5%

Of all graded players have a referee qualification.

3-4

Rules workshops held throughout the year.

1

New national-level referee.

CONCLUSION

Hundreds of people each week make the game more enjoyable and safer by ensuring the rules are followed. Referees want everyone to have the best experience possible when taking part in squash tournaments and competitions and refereeing is a great way to continue your enjoyment of the game after or even during your playing career. You can maintain your current links with the game, forge new friendships and give back to the sport in a direct and meaningful way. It can also open up travel opportunities both around New Zealand and to the rest of the world.

In order to continue recognising the important role referees play in the game, Squash Bay of Plenty look to continue offering referee development opportunities as set out in their action plan over the coming years.

REFEREEING ACTION PLAN 2017

| Task | Details | Actions |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Refereeing Planning | Develop Refereeing Plan for 2017-18 | Create a regional plan 2017-19 |
| | | Create an action plan for 2017 |
| | | Establish budget for programme |
| | | Apply for funding |
| Rules Nights | Develop rules night presentation | Engage National Refereeing Director to help develop a simple presentation that can be delivered by any District Referee in a club |
| | Train District Referees to deliver rules nights in regions | Arrange training night for multiple District Referees |
| | Until District Referees are trained, Squash Bay of Plenty to deliver regional Rules Nights | Decide on costs and budget for rules nights |
| | | Identify clusters of clubs |
| District Referee Training | Train more referees to District Referee level | Communicate with clubs and set Rules Night schedule |
| | | Identify potential options with a view to try to get District Referees in each region |
| | | Promote Refereeing pathway |
| | | Attend regional events to assess District Referees |
| National Referee Training | Train more referees to National Referee level | Upskill existing National Referees to be able to assess District Referees |
| | | Identify potential options |
| | | Promote Refereeing pathway |
| Refereeing Database | Keep database of referees at all levels | Assist Squash New Zealand to assess and support District Referees & A graders to become National Referees |
| | | Create referee database |
| | | Gather current information from Squash New Zealand |
| Referee Support | Offer training opportunities for qualified referees | Maintain database as new referees qualify |
| | | Identify potential opportunities |
| | | Arrange funding and logistics for attending events |
| | | Arrange regional refereeing meeting or conference |