



FOOTBALL  
**QUEENSLAND**

**TWO BY TWO  
APPOINTMENTS  
GUIDELINES 2025**

At Football Queensland and in line with the Referee Strategy 2024-2026 we are working hard to ensure the safety and well-being of the Referee cohort and the integrity of all FQ Competitions. Added to that, we must uphold the requirement of Football Queensland to be in line with the Commonwealth Child Protection Act of 1999.

In line with this we want to make sure that we are very clear on what the actions a Junior Football Match Official who is under the age of 18 (hereby referred to as a "JFMO") who finds themselves at a match venue without other Referees.

## **Two By Two Appointments 2025**

In accordance with what has previously been set out the Football Queensland Referees Department has been instructed to appoint all Match Officials to the best of their ability in pairings or full officiating teams of Referees to all matches where Officials can be appointed.

This means that if there were two matches on at the same time at the same venue and only three Referees were available, the Referees will be appointed as a complete team to one field, and no referees will be appointed to the other field.

In situations where there are four Referees available, both games would have two Referees appointed to it.

This means that on occasion, Referees will be asked to cover a more Junior Match compared to the more Senior Match, due to the average ability of the team, or already accepted appointments, so that we can appoint in line with this Referee With Your Friends guideline.

At all times, it is encouraged that Referees seek to work together as opposed to alone, which will enhance the overall on field experience of all the games stakeholders. It is the view of Football Queensland that Referees will develop stronger and faster, retention will be higher and the overall safety of Referees will be enhanced with this guideline in place.

## **Restrictions on a Junior Football Match Officials Role As A Referee**

A Junior Football Match Official shall not officiate a Senior Football Match, defined as U23s and above, alone as a Referee, Assistant Referee or Fourth Official unless they comply with all procedure laid out further in this policy.

A Junior Football Match Official, under the age of 18 years, shall not officiate at a Junior Football Match alone as the Referee or Assistant Referee unless they comply with the procedure laid out further in this policy.

A Junior Match Official may officiate a Junior Football Match alone as an Assistant Referee, as directed by the procedures of this policy.

## If a Junior Football Match Official is at a venue alone in the role as a Referee

If you find yourself being the only Match Official at a venue, to Referee a **Junior Football Match** (U18s and below) the following shall apply:

### **You Shall Not Referee alone unless all the following conditions are met:**

- The referee has been appointed to the match by Football Queensland and/or the club in Squad.
- The referee has a ground official on duty and on station near the field for the entirety of the match **and is always visible to the Referee.**
- The match to be officiated is no higher than the Referees skills determined by historical evidence of previous appointments at an equivalent or higher level as per the Hierarchy of Appointments guidelines.

A Junior Football Match Official wishing to officiate a match alone, in any capacity, must consider the volatility and the importance of the outcome of the match before making the decision to officiate alone.

If a Junior Football Match Official finds themselves being the only Match Official at a venue, to Referee or Assist a **Senior Football Match** (U23s and above): **You Shall Not Referee alone unless permission has been granted by at least one of the following persons:**

- Manager – Officials Strategy
- Conference Referee Development Officer(s)
- The Regional Referee Coach and Development Officer
- The Referee Appointments Officer on the On Call Number: 0721 039 163

If you are in the position to Referee a Senior Football Match (U23 and above) and contact is not able to be made with any of the aforementioned persons, **the Junior Football Match Official does not have the authority to Referee the match.**

## If a Junior Football Match Official is at a venue alone in the role as an Assistant Referee

A Junior Match Official may officiate a Senior Football match in association with another Assistant Referee so long as at least one other official on the match is a Senior Match Official.

A Junior Match Official may officiate a Junior Football match alone or in association with another Assistant Referee, in the absence of an official appointed FQ Referee (i.e a Club Referee), as an Assistant Referee.

Junior Match Official who officiates at a Junior Football Match as an Assistant Referee must meet the above clause in relation to Ground Officials.

If you have any questions in relation to the above please email us on <mailto:referees@footballqueensland.com.au>

### **Subject: Two By Two Appointments Guidelines 2025**

Then someone from the Referees Department will get back to you as soon as possible.