

# NZTFI REFEREE DIRECTORS

REPORT 2022-2023

WILLIE TOELAU





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# Referee's Directors Report:

The 2022-2023 season had its up & down but we managed to get through the summer..

A lot more modules to work with making sure that module nights are not taken up by another module so that there is no double ups so that we can support the modules with referees each week.

2022 saw the full-time referees take control of the Secondary & Intermediate schools referee space which had previously used volunteer referees from former or ex-players to help officiate the school tournaments.

The volunteers did a good job at helping with the tournament but there were a few instances where they would argue or speak down to the student players, which obviously is not what a referee does when refereeing school students.

NZTFI had a meeting with both College Sport & AAIMS that if they want the full-time referees so that it is officiated with professional referees as well as they will be more mature, but it will be at a cost.

The schools saw the difference when the full-time referees took over & all in uniform & acted professionally on the field with the players.

Recruitment saw us go around the country to run clinics.

Our Partnership with NSW & Queensland OZTag gets stronger each year

2023 ITF World Cup saw Maxine Godinet, Brent Newton & Bryan Barron attend the world cup in Limerick Ireland, Brent was awarded the Men's 40's Final Australia v Ireland match, all three enjoyed the experience & are looking forward to the next one in 2026 in Brisbane.

2023 also was a year we lost a dear friend, father & brother Michael Vai, Mike volunteered for everything that he can do to help with his Mangere East club from refereeing to coaching, his son Waka is one of our young & up-coming referees who would also follow his dad around, Mike knew he was sick, but he still went out there to help.







Recruitment was in a full swing in the 2022/2023 season.

Referee Coaches/Assessors travelled around the region to run Referee clinics for Mini/Mods & Juniors.

NZTFI is not immune when it comes to shortage of referees, it's a job only a handful will volunteer for, but it is also a job where the abuse & sideline behaviour has much to answer for.

We have an aging referee base & we are looking at new ways to entice people to have a go at refereeing but starting from the mini/mods first.

The strategic plan is to run referee clinics in the regions, we will also invite them to the next JTN or JOC to referee mini/mods only, but we will put them up in accommodation, give them uniform as well as pay them for their time, we hope this will give them a starting point being with a group of referees & how we are like a big family.

- Napier
- Hastings
- Turangi
- Tomorata
- Mount Albert Lions
- Otara Scorpions
- Papatoetoe Panthers







2023 we said farewell to a dedicated Father, Son, Brother & uncle. On behalf of New Zealand Tag Football we wish to convey with great sadness the passing of one of our NZTFI tag referees Vale Teinano (Michael) Vai. A trusted, much loved and respected member of our tag family and community he will be greatly missed on our tag fields. Fly high Michael you will always be remembered as a humble, giving man with a heart of gold that was loved by many.

Much Alofa's and Aroha's to Michael and his family during these sad times.





2022 saw the commitment from College Sport to lift the match payments for the referees in order to attract our full-time Referees, the increase to \$150.00 for the day allowed referees to take time off work to help with the school's programme which Claude & Ra were running, the feedback from the schools were very positive having the maturity of the referees on the field gave the tournament the professional feel & look.







The APES Games which allowed Tag to be one of the sports to be played at this World renowned tournament saw 4 referees being selected to referee at the Australasian Tournament in Rotorua, the experience was great for everyone involved.





NZTFI Referees Director Willie Toelau took 4 local referees to the Australian OZTAG National Championships held in Coffs Harbour in November 2023, it's been 5 years since the team has been on Aussie soil due to Covid-19, the trip allowed these referees to experience international games & the way the Australians play, 2024 Willie is looking at taking some more referees to the QLD Juniors & NSW Juniors state Cup, there is a pathway for those who want to give refereeing a go,





The relationship between Queensland OZTag & NZTFI in 2023 grows stronger each time our referees are invited to go & referee at their Senior State Cup, it is another tournament which our referees get to go overseas & referee a different style of play.



A Partnership with Queensland OZTag with NZTFI in 2023 saw them bring 8 Junior referees from their programme in Australia to give them a different experience to referee here in NZ, thanks to Raymond & Fatu for their support.





NZTFI Nationals 2023, will be the last time we see our referee family from Porirua, as their module coordinator has decided to take the module under the Kiwi Tag umbrella, we understand that the decision was for the families & kids that they always provided the sport of tag for & it was financially beneficial for their community, we wish them all the best for their new venture.

- Ants Akavi
- Sunny Seumanufagai
- Christie De Theirry
- Patrick Woolley





#### NZTFI REFEREE RANKING 2022/2023: SENIORS

- 1.Mina Nomani
- 2.Maxine Godinet
- 3.Brent Newton
- 4.Hayden Price
- 5.Vern Nathan
- 6.Colin Nepson
- 7.Patrick Woolly
- 8.Nigel Williams
- 9.Sefo Ngaone
- 10.Poriau Umaki

#### NZTFI REFEREE RANKING 2022/2023: JUNIORS

- 1.Brandon Tasker
- 2.Oliver Broadhead
- 3.Chrystal mana
- 4.Christian Euini
- 5.Joel Broadhead
- 6.Will Toelau
- 7.Waka Vai
- 8.Sebastian Kashammer
- 9.Jackson Brierly
- 10.Brihana Paul