

Australian Taekwondo & the National Kyorugi Referee Committee (NKRC) is proud to present a refreshed Kyorugi referee framework designed to enhance the experience of officials and to broaden opportunities for those interested in engaging with the sport of Taekwondo through officiating. This new framework is committed to improving accessibility, support, and development opportunities for all individuals aspiring to become Kyorugi referees.

The revised framework is closely aligned with the Australian Sport Commission's Modern Approach to Officiating. Its primary aim is to prioritise participant experiences and outcomes, ensuring that officials are empowered to reach their personal best in their preferred officiating environments (whether club, State, or high-performance) and throughout their officiating journey.

Under this framework, referees will receive support and guidance from their respective State referee coaches and educators, who work collaboratively with National Referee Coaches. This partnership is designed to develop and nurture referee skills, as well as help officials identify their personal motivations and desired outcomes within officiating.

Whether individuals wish to contribute at the grassroots level by officiating at club and State events, or have ambitions to be selected for high-performance opportunities—such as National team selection events, world championships, or even the Olympic Games—the framework provides clear pathways and support for all levels of aspiration.

**The key changes within the framework are:**

- Transition from four (4) levels to five (5), with the removal of a number system to named categories that reflect the skill and knowledge expectations of each officiating level.
- The introduction of a cadet referee program for young officials ages 12-15.
- An increased focus on continual learning and development, allowing participants to access education at their own pace.
- Two levels of courses:
  - State referee courses managed by each individual State allowing for a greater level of ownership and accessibility for our State members
  - National referee courses managed by AT ensuring greater consistency of interpretation and understanding of the rule and regulations amongst our National referees
- New assessment and level requirements incorporating the modern approach to officiating and bringing focus to achieving match outcomes appropriate to the level of event

## Comparison of the historical vs the new framework structure

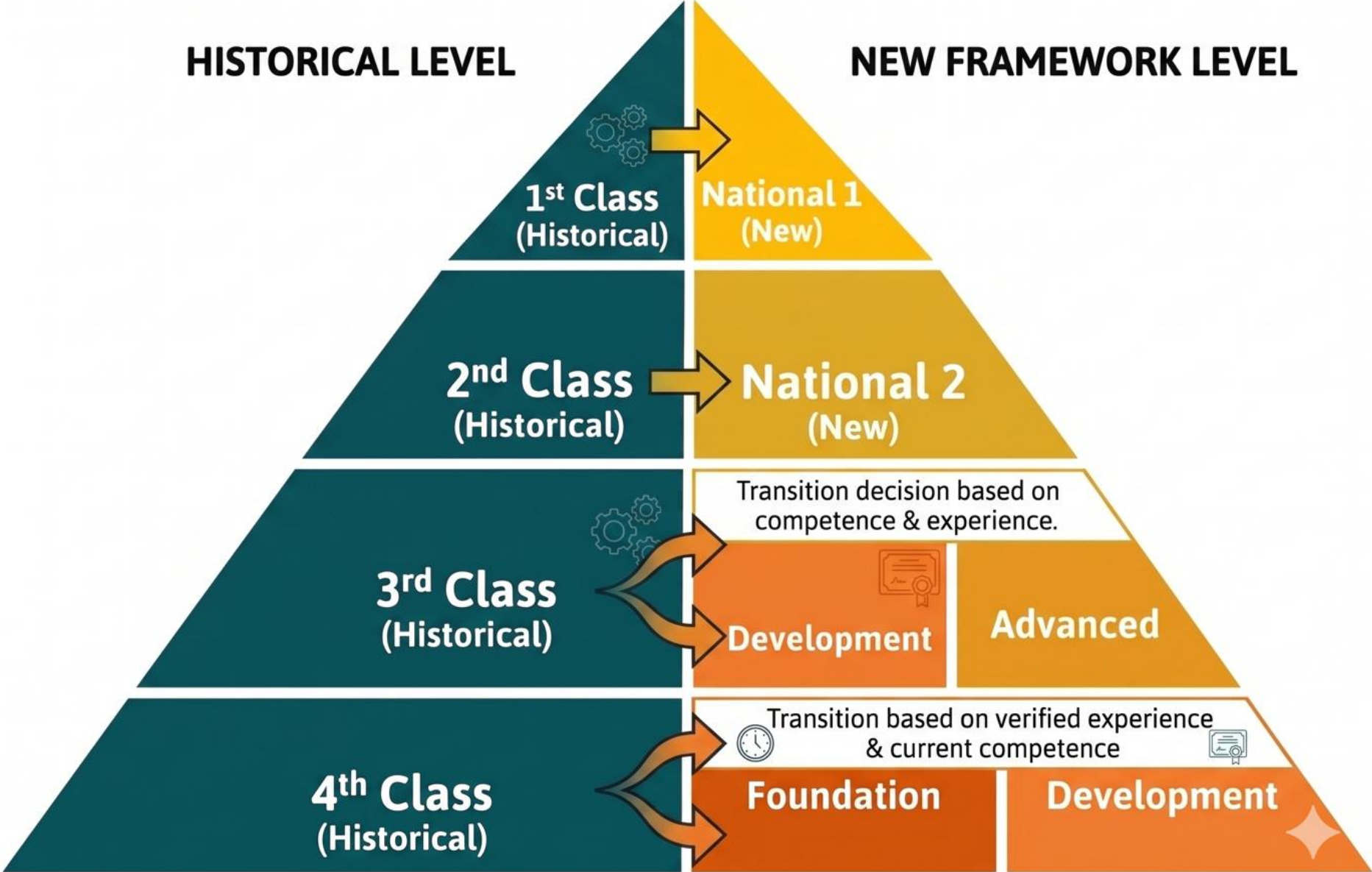
	Historical	New
<b>Certification Course period</b>	2 years	4 years (Olympic cycle)
<b>Course structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State Level course (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> class)</li> <li>● National Level course (1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> class)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Individually targeted content and learning for each level                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cadet program (2 levels)</li> <li>○ State program (3 levels)</li> <li>○ National program (2 levels)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>National Education &amp; Training opportunities</b>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6-8 workshops per year</li> <li>● 6-12 training days per year</li> <li>● Online recordings available after each workshop</li> </ul>
<b>Mentoring</b>	Informal	Formalised coaching and mentoring support roles
<b>Costs</b>	Flat rate for all levels	Tiered rate per level
<b>Educators</b>	National educators required for all courses	State levels managed by each state and taught by State educators National levels managed by AT and taught by national educators
<b>Course resources</b>	Developed by the NKRC and provided to national educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Online modules hosted by AT</li> <li>● State course resources developed by AT</li> <li>● National course developed by AT</li> </ul>

## Level transitions

State bodies will assess and confirm the experience and knowledge of referees with 4th or 3rd Class accreditation. The table outlines experience guidelines and expected competency levels.

Historical	Transitioned	Experience Guideline	Competency
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Foundation	< 2 State approved competitions	<b>N/A</b>
	Development	<b>2+</b> State approved competitions	Meets the Development Standard of Competencies
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Class</b>	Development	< 6 State approved competition as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Meets the Development standard of Competencies
	Advanced	<b>6+</b> State approved competitions as 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Regularly achieves the Advanced Standard or surpasses the Development Standard in most Competencies
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	National 2	Current 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	National 1	Current 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	

# HISTORICAL CLASS TO NEW FRAMEWORK TRANSITION



## Fee structure comparison on an annualised basis

Historical	New	Historical cost (annualised)	Course cost (annualised) + annual fee	Annual Saving/Increase
N/A	Cadet	N/A	\$6.25 per year	NA
4 <sup>th</sup> class	Foundation	\$55	\$6.25 per year	\$48.75 saving
3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> class	Development	\$55	\$20 per year	\$35 saving
3 <sup>rd</sup> class	Advanced	\$55	\$30 per year	\$25 saving
2 <sup>nd</sup> class	National 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$55	\$67.50	\$12.50 increase
1 <sup>st</sup> class	National 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$55	\$67.50	\$12.50 increase

## Recommended fees

Please note for state courses the fees are paid directly to the relevant state body, and the fees are at the full discretion of each state. Annual fee is tiered in recognition of the national education and training access provided at each level.

Level	Course duration	Recommended Course Fee	Annual Referee license	Minimum Per Diem
Cadet	Online self-paced Onsite ½ day	\$25 (direct to state)	\$0	\$80
Foundation	Online self-paced Onsite ½ day	\$25 (direct to state)	\$0	\$80
Development	Online self-paced Onsite 1 day	\$40 (direct to state)	\$10	\$100
Advanced	Online self-paced Onsite 1 day	\$40 (direct to state)	\$20	\$100
National 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Onsite 2 days	\$150	\$30	\$150
National 1 <sup>st</sup>	Onsite 2 days	\$150	\$30	\$200
International	WT IR Course 4 days	WT prescribed \$400 USD	Waived IRs are required to hold a valid GOL + their annual WT IR dues (\$50 USD)	\$200

## FAQ

As part of the rollout of the 2026 AT Kyorugi Referee Framework there will be a transition period. As World Taekwondo has released new rules in force as of June 2026 all referees are required to complete a referee certification course under the new rules. The accreditation of each new referee will be transitioned and confirmed after they have completed the required course.

### Question: What will my level be under the new framework?

Referees holding a 3rd or 4th class accreditation will be transitioned according to their event participation and time spent at the current level, so as to not unfairly disadvantage anyone.

Referees holding a 1st or 2nd class accreditation may request a transition to a lower level if they wish to maintain their AT referee accreditation but are no longer participating in national events.

### Question: Why the change?

The change was made in recognition of our diverse officiating community, acknowledging that people, like athletes, have varying reasons for engaging in officiating. The framework was updated to align accreditations with the individual goals and motivations for officiating, and to adopt the Australian Sports Commission's "Modern Approach to Officiating".

### Question: What's a referee licence?

A referee licence is an annual check designed to ensure that officials meet all requirements for child safety, sport integrity, and professional development.

The licence serves three primary functions:

1. **Simplifies Compliance:** It acts as a clear status indicator, eliminating questions like "when was your last refresher?" or "what was your last event?" for event organisers.
2. **Access to Development:** It grants access to online education resources, referee workshops, and training days for continuous development.
3. **Participation Requirement:** It is required for participation in any AT or state-recognised events.

### Question: I have to pay to referee?

We're actually reducing annual costs and lowering the entry barrier for State levels!

With the tiered referee licence structure, we have been able to lower costs for most referee levels, removing barriers to entry and allowing more people to join our referee community. The introduction of a referee license allows for the provision of ongoing professional development, including access to online modules and far more in-person training opportunities than previously available. This gives more referees the opportunity to better their skills more often **for less than what they were paying before** or only marginally more for the senior national levels.

### Question: How do referees move from state to national level?

Refereeing is a skill developed through training and experience, following a pyramid effect that mirrors an athlete's journey—from progressing through belt ranks (e.g., yellow belt to black belt) to advancing from club and state competitions to national and elite international representation. Not all referees will pursue or reach the national or international level.

The new framework is designed to support this skill development by providing greater support and higher learning touch points, tailored to each individual's officiating journey.

Specifically, individuals who achieve the **Advanced Referee** level and aim for national or international progression will be supported by national coaches and educators. These experts will work alongside the referee's state body to prepare them to step up to the higher levels.

### **Question: How will referees be motivated to progress from state to national level?**

Referees will be motivated to progress from the state to the national level through a structured pathway that aligns accreditation with their individual goals and motivations, mirroring an athlete's progression through their career.

The framework encourages progression by providing significant developmental and financial incentives with support for Individual Goals and Progression.

The framework is designed to empower officials to reach their personal best, whether they aim to contribute at the grassroots level or aspire to high-performance opportunities like World Championships or the Olympic Games.

Advancing to the national levels (National 2 and National 1) unlocks significantly greater financial and logistical support for officiating at high-level events. In addition to providing the access to the International Referee Pathway

### **Question: How will AT ensure consistency nationwide with states managing their own programs?**

AT acknowledges that capability and understanding inconsistency between states is a pre-existing challenge, even with the current system where AT manages the entire referee program.

To ensure nationwide consistency with states managing their own programs, AT will implement the following strategies:

- Host core online learning units.
- Provide course resources to support state programs.
- Run national workshops and Q&A sessions open to referees at the Development level and above.

Just as Australia must keep pace with world-level interpretation and management changes, referees acting in state educator or referee coach roles must actively engage outside of their state to maintain contact with and uphold the national standards.

### **Question: Will AT provide course resources to states?**

AT currently provides full course resources including course timetables, slide decks, video resources, and assessments. While the level of resources provided will be reduced some support will remain.

Core units are hosted by AT via online modules. The on site courses will shift to practical hands on and scenario discussions. AT will provide

- Suggested learning units with key learning outcomes
- Slide decks for suggested units
- Video clips
- Scenarios for consideration

### **Question: What qualifications are state educators, state referee coaches, and state assessors required to hold?**

To hold one of the three state-level referee developer roles, only an active referee accreditation at the level required for that specific role is formally necessary, and no formal certification or training is mandatory. Despite this, it is highly recommended that the state requests their chosen referee developers complete relevant training. Since Australian Taekwondo does not offer 'train the trainer' courses, several appropriate online learning courses are available through the [Australian Sports Commission online learning portal](#).

States may request support from AT to identify and appoint educators, referee coaches and assessors. A form has been setup [here](#) which can be activated for any State who asks for assistance with the process.

Referees should be considered as "athletes who officiate," meaning their skill development, like an athlete's, is central to the new framework, which aligns with the Australian Sports Commission's "Modern Approach to Officiating". Consequently, foundational coaching knowledge is essential for State Referee Coaches and Educators, as key coaching principles apply to them just as they do for coaches of competitive athletes.

<https://www.ausport.gov.au/learning-centre/learners>

*Recommended learning includes*

Facilitation Essential Skills

Community Coaching Essential Skills

Community Coaching Masterclass courses