



KARRATHA SOCCER ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Ground Marshal Policy – Junior & Unqualified Referee Matches

Purpose

To ensure a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all matches officiated by referees under the age of 13 or by unqualified referees, the Karratha Soccer Association (KSA) requires the presence of designated Ground Marshals at all relevant venues.

Scope

This policy applies to all KSA-sanctioned fixtures where:

- A referee is under the age of 13; or
- A referee is not formally qualified/accredited.

Ground Marshal Requirements

- A **minimum of two (2) Ground Marshals** must be present at each venue where applicable matches are played.
- This includes (but is not limited to):
 - **Dampier** – 2 Ground Marshals
 - **Karratha Leisureplex (KLP)** – 2 Ground Marshals (applicable to **Nickol, Glory, Salt, and Baynton**)
 - **Wickham** – 2 Ground Marshals

Roles & Responsibilities of Ground Marshals

Ground Marshals are responsible for:

- Ensuring a safe and respectful environment for referees, players, and spectators.
- Monitoring and managing sideline behaviour, including:
 - Spectator conduct
 - Coach and team official behaviour
- Acting as the **first point of contact** for any issues involving:
 - Abuse or intimidation of referees
 - Disputes or escalating situations

- Supporting young or inexperienced referees where required, without interfering in match decisions.

Ground Marshal Eligibility & Appointment

- A Ground Marshal must be an **Authorised Person**.
- An **Authorised Person** is defined as:
 - An individual who has been formally approved by their club or the KSA to perform the role of Ground Marshal; and
 - Is over the age of 18; and
 - Is deemed responsible and capable of managing sideline behaviour and upholding KSA standards.
- Each club is responsible for:
 - Nominating and approving its Ground Marshals prior to fixtures;
 - Ensuring all Ground Marshals are identifiable (e.g. bib, vest, or other clearly visible identifier);
 - Ensuring Ground Marshals understand their roles, responsibilities, and authority.
- The KSA Executive Committee reserves the right to:
 - Reject or revoke the authorisation of any individual deemed unsuitable to act as a Ground Marshal.
- Individuals who are not approved as Authorised Persons **must not** act in the capacity of a Ground Marshal.

Non-Compliance

- The provision of two (2) Ground Marshals is **mandatory** for all applicable fixtures.
- If a venue fails to meet this requirement:
 - The match **must not commence** until the required Ground Marshals are in place, unless otherwise expressly approved by a KSA Executive Committee member.

- Any instance of non-compliance will be **formally recorded as a breach** of KSA policy.
- **Sanctions:**
 - A **first breach** will result in a formal warning to the home club.
 - A **second breach** will result in the automatic removal of the club's right to host home fixtures until compliance can be demonstrated.
 - In cases of **serious breach** (including failure that results in referee abuse, safety concerns, or match disruption), the KSA Executive Committee may impose immediate sanctions, including suspension of home fixtures without prior warning.
- The KSA Executive Committee reserves the right to apply additional disciplinary measures where deemed necessary

Enforcement & Governance

- All breaches of this policy will be reviewed by the **KSA Executive Committee**.
- The Committee will:
 - Assess each situation on a **case-by-case basis**
 - Determine appropriate outcomes or sanctions
- The **decision of the KSA Executive Committee is final**.

Implementation

- This policy is effective immediately upon adoption.
- All clubs are responsible for ensuring compliance at their respective home grounds.