

# Refereeing is a way to stay in the game

REFEREEING football makes for a much better job than working in retail or putting in a shift at a fast food outlet.

Just ask Jarryd McFarlane.

McFarlane has been refereeing in the Granville and Districts Soccer Football Association for more than five years after taking the plunge while recovering from an injury when he was 13.

The teenager began refereeing at 14 and has not looked back.

"I think at that age I was just looking for a way to make some money and I thought (refereeing) would be a good alternative to working at Woolies or McDonald's or something," McFarlane said.

"I've only just picked up a fulltime job now but I'll keep officiating as long as I can."

McFarlane said he was fortunate to have made some great friends through the job and said the people he got to work with on a weekly basis made the job worthwhile.

"Everyone you meet has at least one common interest in football," McFarlane said.

"I've gone to two State Titles to

referee and I've done a National Premier Leagues under-18 grand final at Leichardt Oval last year.

"I quit playing at 15 and refereeing keeps me involved in football."

McFarlane said he would encourage anyone who plays football to give refereeing a try.

"No one is really mean or cruel within the referees circle and there is a lot of support," McFarlane said.

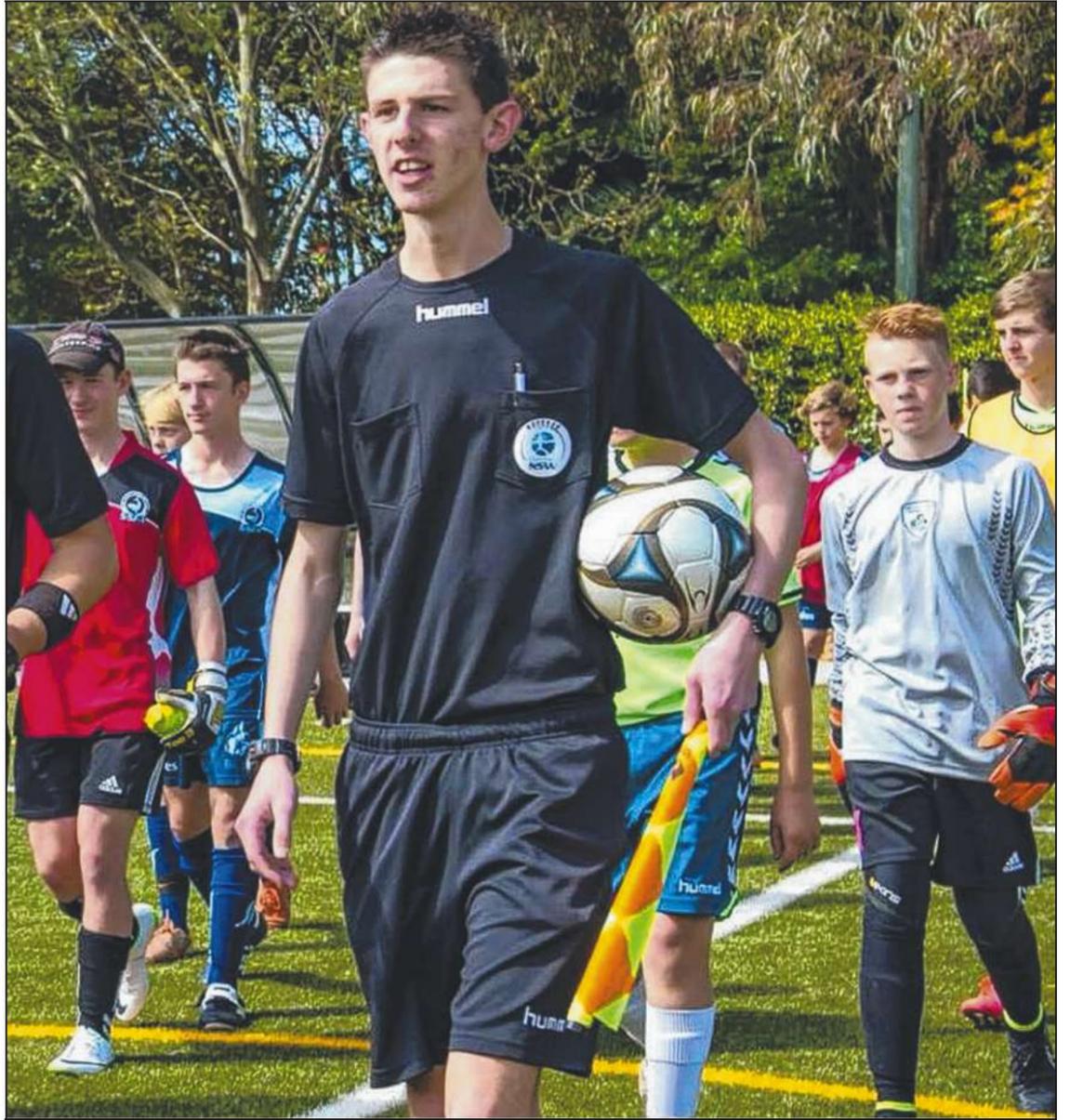
"I'd encourage other people to do it, not just for the money side of things, but just for the experience - just to see what football is like from a different perspective.

"You just go and do a course and you might even learn some rules that you did not know about before."

■ All material provided by Football NSW

#### FIND OUT MORE

For information on becoming a referee with the Granville District Soccer Referees Association go to [gdfra.org.au](http://gdfra.org.au) or email Joseph Rovella at [jrovella@bigpond.com](mailto:jrovella@bigpond.com)



Jarryd McFarlane began refereeing with the Granville and Districts Soccer Football Association while recovering from an injury when he was 13 and says it has kept him involved in football after he stopped playing at 15.



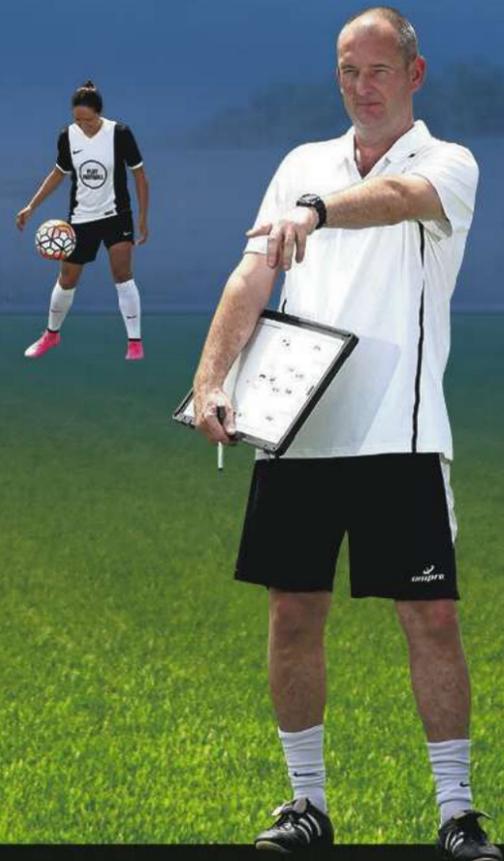
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