

DON REYMENT – AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE REFEREE

Don Reyment commenced playing with Caulfield Lacrosse Club as a 14yr old in 1948 playing in 1950 in the Caulfield Under 16 premiership team and in the same year selected in the Victorian Under 16 team for the carnival in Adelaide. In 1952 Don won the Caulfield B grade best and fairest award.

In 1959 Don played in the Victorian 2nd team that participated in the carnival and the visiting American team, and played in 10 grand finals from Under 16 through to A grade with Caulfield, winning 8 premierships. He also served on the Caulfield Lacrosse Club committee for 5-6 years.

REFEREEING

In 1960 Don incurred an ankle injury which ended his playing career at the age of 26 and commenced refereeing in 1961 and refereed until he retired following the 1982 season (22 years).

In 1965 Don refereed his first A grade grand final & from then on he probably refereed every state final from that year until 1981.

In the early days national carnivals were held every 3 years, and then gradually reduced to annual events, and Don refereed at every interstate carnival or interstate match that were played.

At the international level he officiated at the first 3 world championships (1974 Melbourne, 1978 Manchester & 1982 Baltimore), including refereeing the final in both 1974 and 1978.



Don was a foundation member of the then newly formed Australian Lacrosse Referees Association, which was formed in 1974 around the time of the inaugural world championship.

In 1988 he was appointed Referee in Chief for the inaugural Under 19 World Championships in Adelaide.

He was appointed the inaugural Australian Lacrosse Referee in Chief from 1975, a position created by A.L.C. following the 1974 world championship and was appointed referee in chief for the next world championship to be held in Australia, in Perth in 1990.

Following retirement in 1982, Don acted as club referee for Chadstone on Saturday mornings for their junior teams in 1983.

Following his refereeing career Don became a referees assessor in Victoria from 1984 as he felt he could still help the referees improve their performance & that they might gain the great pleasure that he had experienced in his years as a referee, and continued in the role of assessor/chief assessor until the end of the 2019 season (36 years).

AWARDS

1998 - ALC certificate of merit 1998

2005 - ALC Fellow

ALRA life member – first referee to be inducted to life membership via the national body of ALRA, a high distinction for a very worthy recipient.

Circa 1990 - ILF/ILFRA certificate of recognition signed by the President of the ILF and President of the ILFRA, Graham Lester

2008 - Referee-in-chief U19/U17 Australian championships



Above is the refereeing panel for the 1974 world championship in Melbourne

L to R: Peter Reid (W.A.), Noel O'Brien (Vic), Jake Curran (U.S.A.), Peter Wedding (S.A.), George Anderson (England), Garry Macdonald (Wales) & Don Reymont (Victoria)



TESTIMONIALS

GORDON ELDER

Having made a decision to stop playing and become a lacrosse referee in 1975 I was teamed up with Don for my first 6 matches.

During those 6 matches Don gave me a strong grounding in the art of officiating and emphasised to me to only call what you saw and don't fall into the trap of second guessing a situation. The other important area was giving respect to players in order to earn respect from them. Not always easy to do, but, with those important lessons I was fortunate to have had a long career as a referee.

Don was always the gentleman and was very tough on players using profanities, always gave a warning first, which players respected. With his wife Joyce, I travelled with him to my first interstate carnival and my first world championship, where again he was a great mentor. Being a non drinker didn't detract from his ability to socialise and communicate with all sections of the lacrosse community.

As an assessor after his retirement as a referee, he used his experience to guide others and I am sure we are all the better for his counsel.

Don, well done on your career as a lacrosse referee and your contribution to our great game.

LINDSAY SCOTT

My first encounters with Don were in the early 1980's when I was fortunate to referee with him at the national senior championships. Being from Western Australia I had not had any previous opportunities to work with him. I was amazed at his ability to know every player by name, which he used continuously throughout the games whether warning them or when applying a penalty in his firm but very gentlemanly like way. Following his retirement from refereeing he provided great guidance and mentorship to me as relative new referee at subsequent national championships.

From 1987 onwards, as the then ALC worked towards establishing a national referee assessment method and a national grading system, Don's input was invaluable. Many hours were spent with him on the sidelines at national championships along with Basil Greenhalgh from South Australia as we worked towards the establishment of the national referee assessment / grading system.

In 1988 when he was appointed Referee in Chief for the inaugural Under 19 World Championships in Adelaide he co-opted myself and Dennis Marsden from South Australia to help with the on field assessments and debriefs. Being able to watch and learn from him proved to be an invaluable experience for my own roles in future years. Then in 1990 when he was appointed Referee in Chief for the 1990 World Championships in Perth I was able to once again observe and learn from him.

Following this, Don continued to contribute to our great game, usually alongside his lovely wife Joyce, as a referee mentor / assessor over many years to follow. Congratulations Don on a great lacrosse career.

JOHN NOLAN

I saw Don Reyment as a player and as a fellow referee. He was never the centre of attention, he was there to guide the game and only blew his whistle when it was necessary. He wasn't a lecturer or authoritarian, he just kept the players within the bounds of the rules, with the focus on keeping the game going, not controlling it. He was the best referee I played under and refereed with. Well done Don. And his partner in life, Joyce, was always there to support and encourage him.