

Laurie Nelsen

Laurie commenced his refereeing career at Coburg, soon rising to a grade status. After a break he happened to meet Steve Chadd who persuaded him to return to refereeing, this time at Eltham. Both he and his then wife and all five children, Mathew, Kate, Amanda, Kyle and Meghan became active referees, probably a record, certainly at that time. Laurie then became a referee coach, not only for Eltham, but also for the panels of VJBL and Big V. When Steve became Director of Refereeing, Laurie became his deputy. In that role he controlled each beginner course, developing an innovative blend of theory and on-court practice. In addition, he contributed to other courses, served on the referees' committee and was the regular referee coach for the Monday night competition. Laurie's award of life membership was 2016.