



2026 BVTO LICENCE FEE UPDATE

CHANGES TO BASKETBALL VICTORIA TECHNICAL OFFICIAL (BVTO) FEES

1. EARLY BIRD PERIOD MOVED EARLIER

What's Changing:

The early bird period will now run from 1 October to 31 December, instead of beginning on 1 December.

Why It's Changing:

- Provides more lead time to complete "Pay On Behalf" (POB), or individual transactions
- Aligns better with summer-only or Term 4 associations.
- Avoids complications during BV's end-of-year shutdown.

How It Affects You:

Your association will have more time and flexibility to manage BVTO fee payments – especially helpful for seasonal competitions. Admins will be able to be better supported during the process.

2. REMOVAL OF 90-DAY GRACE PERIOD

What's Changing:

The 90-day grace period for new officials has been removed. Now, as soon as a official is added to Refbook with any member type (other than "none"), a BVTO fee is triggered

Why It's Changing:

- Improves insurance coverage from the moment officials start training.
- Ensures access to essential protections (e.g. tribunal access, WWCC, SBaS, declarations).
- Simplifies processes for administrators.
- Further aligns officiating to be consistent with other participants (coaches and players).
- Promotes consistent standards across metro and regional associations.

How It Affects You:

Associations will need to add trainee/ungraded officials into Refbook before they take the court. This ensures they can be covered and visible in the system from Day 1. If cost is a concern, it is recommended that the association factors this into a course cost, and pays on behalf of the member

NOTE: An official who joins Refbook on, or after October 1, is not required to pay that years BVTO licence, and rather is covered from when they pay the following years BVTO Licence. i.e. If an official joins your organisation on October 30 2025, they are not required to pay the 2025 BVTO Licence. Once the official pays their 2026 BVTO Licence, they will be covered for their officiating duties for the remainder of 2025.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Does this mean trainees/ungraded officials have to pay the fee straight away?

Yes- all officials, including trainees are required to hold a current BVTO Licence before being appointed to any game.

Why was the grace period removed?

The grace period caused confusion, inconsistency across associations, and left some referees without insurance. Removing it improves safety, compliance, and clarity, it also further aligns officiating to stay consistent with other participants of the game (coaches and players).

What if an official does not obtain their C-grade Accreditation?

If an official pays their BVTO licence, and stops officiating they may be eligible for a refund which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Refund requests can be submitted by contacting Jordan Royal, and/or Darcy Weedon.

What if my association only runs games in Term 4 or summer?

These changes support you- the earlier early bird period gives more time to set up and prepare, and associations can now sort licensing before the season starts and adds equity to have access to the early bird rate.

Is there still an early bird discount?

Yes! The early bird period still offers a discounted fee – it just starts earlier now (1 October).

Can I still "Pay on Behalf" for officials?

Absolutely. POB continues to be encouraged, especially during the early bird period. Many associations use this to support, thank and retain officials.

My associations Refbook membership list isn't accurate. What can I do before the licence period?

Take the time to update the list to the best of your knowledge, if you need support, there is an admin guide attached in the email, or you can reach out to Darcy Weedon, or Jordan Royal.

If an official starts officiating in October 2025, do they need to pay the 2025 BVTO Licence?

No, only officials that start before October 1, 2025, are required to pay the 2025 BVTO Licence, if they join on, or after 1 October 2025, they are not required to pay the fee for that year. They will be covered for all officiating in 2025, once they make payment of their 2026 BVTO Licence.

If an official pays for the 2026 BVTO licence in November 2025, are they instantly covered?

The 2026 BVTO licence only provides coverage from 1 January 2026, and so if an official is active throughout 2025, and joins before 1 October 2025, they are still required to pay the 2025 BVTO Licence. If they join on, or after 1 October 2025, yes, they are covered.

What happens if an official does not have a current BVTO Licence?

They may not be insured, may be ineligible for tribunal access, and technically cannot officiate BV-affiliated games. This can also affect compliance for the association, which can have effect on entry/allocations to BV courses/events, and access to teams/players to BV competitions, events and training programs.

What is the difference between the early bird and standard fee?

The early bird period (1 October – 31 December) offers a discounted rate (\$12). After that, the standard fee applies from 1 January onwards (\$17).