

11. National Referee Program

Administrative Overview of the AYSO National Referee Program

The AYSO National Referee Program is administered by the AYSO National Referee Program. AYSO referees are supported by an administrative structure that is similar at the Region, Area and Section levels, each of which has a Referee Administrator, Referee Director of Instruction and Referee Director of Assessment. The individuals in these roles are responsible for implementing the AYSO National Referee Program in response to the needs of the referees within their designated areas of responsibility.

Training and Certification

One of the most important features of the AYSO National Referee Program is the AYSO Referee Certification and Training Program. All AYSO referees are required to be certified and trained. Referee certification is obtained by attending AYSO's Safe Haven. Referee training is available in six different training courses: 8U Official, Assistant Referee, Regional Referee, Intermediate Referee, Advanced Referee and National Referee. There is also an online Regional Referee Course, which coupled with an in-person Companion Course, completes the training for the Regional Referee.

AYSO referee training is designed to provide education for referees and prospective referees that will enable them to officiate AYSO soccer matches in accordance with the *Laws of the Game* and the *AYSO National Rules & Regulations*. It is the intent of the AYSO National Referee Program to provide practical, incremental referee training that will ensure consistency throughout AYSO.

With the exception of training for the 8U Official, referee designations and training are not directly associated with any specific age group. The AYSO 8U Official may officiate only AYSO players under the age of 8. Completion of one of the additional AYSO referee courses is required to officiate at any other level of AYSO play.

To effectively officiate higher-level matches, a referee must have experience, physical conditioning and mental preparation along with appropriate training. Training in AYSO is a continuing process. Referees are encouraged to take additional courses and to participate in continuous education whether or not they desire to upgrade to a higher level.

Every referee must have a sound foundation in the *Laws of the Game* as a prerequisite to being certified as a referee. At all levels of the training program, referee candidates are tested on their knowledge of the Laws.

At each referee certification level, there are requirements in addition to training (including the law exams). It is the responsibility of the individual referee to ensure that he/she meets all other requirements.

The training program has been organized as a series of short courses intended to provide training supplemental to the previous courses. In addition, modular elements of the courses may be presented individually as part of continuing education that may not necessarily result in upgrade. All referee training courses are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Though there are no prerequisites for attending any referee training course, certification upgrade requires each requisite level of course completion.

Referees who attend training for upgrade must maintain their individual training record and obtain appropriate signatures for training completed. When all of the elements of an upgrade are complete, the paperwork is submitted to the National Office.

Cross-certification between certain AYSO and United States Soccer Federation (USSF) referee certification levels is available upon application.

Observation and Assessment

An additional service is available to AYSO Referees through the observation or assessment of the on-field performance of the official. This observation/assessment serves at least three purposes. First, it measures an official's competency at the level required to officiate a typical, regular season AYSO match. Second, it provides a mechanism for officials to obtain positive and constructive feedback and to measure the progress of their officiating skills. Third, it provides a means of recognition for that progress.

Additional Information

A more detailed explanation and information regarding the AYSO National Referee Program is available in the National Referee Program Manual. This manual plus additional information regarding the AYSO National Referee Program is available online www.aysou.org. An AYSO ID number is required for access or call the referee department at the National Office in Torrance, CA at (800) USA-AYSO.

Referee Training Matrix					
Course	Course Description	Length	Pre-requisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Verification of Lead Instructor Requirement
8U Official	This course trains volunteers to officiate in 8U matches.	3 hours	None	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
8U Official to Assistant Referee	This course trains 8U Officials in the basic skills required to serve as an Assistant Referee	3 hours	8U Official	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
Assistant Referee	This course trains volunteers in the basics of being an Assistant Referee for AYSO matches under the Laws of the Game and AYSO National Rules and Regulations, and to officiate in 8U matches.	5 hours	None	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
8U Official to Regional Referee	This course trains 8U Officials in the basic skills required to serve as a Regional Referee.	4 hours	8U Official	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
Assistant Referee to Regional Referee	This course trains Assistant Referees in the basic skills required to serve as a Regional Referee.	2 hours	Assistant Referee	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
Regional Referee Online Training	This is an online training course located at www.aysou.org	1.5 hours	None	Self-Study	N/A
Regional Referee Online Companion	This training, in combination with the Regional Referee Online Training course trains referees in the basic skills required to serve as a Regional Referee	3 hours	Regional Referee Online Training Course	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator

Referee Training Matrix					
Course	Course Description	Length	Pre-requisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Verification of Lead Instructor Requirement
Regional Referee	This course trains referees in the basic aspects of refereeing needed to do AYSO matches under the Laws of the Game and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	8 hours	None	Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
Intermediate Referee	This course trains referees to do more physically demanding and challenging matches under the Laws of the Game and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	8 hours	Complete Regional Referee Course and Pass Regional Referee Exam	Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Advanced Referee	This course trains referees to do most matches under the Laws of the Game and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	8 hours	Complete Intermediate Referee Course and Pass Intermediate Referee Exam	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
National Referee	This course trains referees to referee all AYSO matches under the Laws of the Game and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	15 hours	Complete Advanced Referee Course and Pass Advanced Referee Exam	National Referee Instructor	National Office Programs staff
Referee Assessor	This course trains assessors to assess officiating skills at the Advanced level.	4.5 hours	None For complete details on requirements for Assessor Certification, consult the National Referee Program	Advanced Referee Instructor and either an Assessor or National Assessor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Assessment

Referee Training Matrix					
Course	Course Description	Length	Pre-requisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Verification of Lead Instructor Requirement
			Manual.		
National Referee Assessor	This course trains Assessors to assess refereeing skills at the National level.	5 hours	Referee Assessor Course For complete details on requirements for Assessor Certification, consult the National Referee Program Manual.	National Referee Instructor and National Referee Assessor	National Office Programs staff
Referee Administrator Training	This training teaches Referee Administrators the essential activities needed to manage a referee program.	2.5 hours	None	Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Instruction
Area Referee Administrator Training	This training teaches Area Referee Administrators the essential activities to manage an Area referee program.	1.25 hours	Referee Admin Training	Advanced Referee Instructor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Instruction

AYSO Referee Certification Requirements

8U OFFICIAL	
Age:	10 or older
Training:	Complete 8U Official Course
Test:	Take 8U Official Exam
Notes:	1,2,3
ASSISTANT REFEREE	
Age:	12 or older
Training:	Complete Assistant Referee Course <u>or</u> be a 8U Official and complete 8U to Assistant Referee Upgrade Course
Test:	Take Assistant Referee Exam
Notes:	1,2,3
REGIONAL REFEREE	
Age:	12 or older
Training:	Complete Regional Referee Course <u>or</u> be a 8U Official and complete 8U to Regional Referee Upgrade Course <u>or</u> be an Assistant Referee and complete AR to Regional Referee Upgrade Course
Test:	Score 75% or higher on the Regional Referee Exam
Notes:	1,3,4
INTERMEDIATE REFEREE	
Age:	14 or older
Matches:	25 as referee with at least 5 in 12U matches
Prerequisite:	Certification as Regional Referee
Training:	Complete Intermediate Referee Course
Test:	Score 90% or higher on the Intermediate Referee Exam
Observation:	One observation as a referee in a 12U match is required
Verification:	Area (or Section) Referee Administrator or Area (or Section) Director of Assessment
Notes:	1,3,4,5,6,13
ADVANCED REFEREE	
Age:	16 or older
Matches:	50 as referee with at least 10 in 14U matches and 5 as assistant referee in 14U matches
Prerequisite:	Certification as Intermediate Referee
Training:	Complete Advanced Referee Course
Test:	Score 90% or higher on the Advanced Referee Exam
Assessment:	One as a referee in a 14U match <u>and</u> one as assistant referee in a 14U match
Fitness Test:	Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for the Advanced level
Verification:	Area (or Section) Referee Administrator or Area (or Section) Director of Assessment
Notes:	1,3,7,9,10, 13
NATIONAL REFEREE	
Age:	18 or older.
Matches:	100 as referee with at least 30 in 16U and 18U matches, of which at least 15 must be in 18U matches if available, <u>and</u> 25 as assistant referee with at least 10 in 18U matches, if available
Prerequisite:	Certification as Advanced Referee
Training:	Complete National Referee Course. It is strongly recommended that the candidate complete at least 80 matches as referee before attending the National Referee Course
Test:	Score 90% or higher on the National Referee Exam
Assessment:	Two as a referee in 16U or 18U matches with at least one in 18U, if available, <u>and</u> one as assistant referee in a 18U match, if available
Experience:	A minimum of one year of experience as an AYSO Advanced Referee
Fitness Test:	Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for the National level
Verification:	Section Referee Administrator or Section Director of Assessment
Notes:	1,3,8,9,10,11,12,13

Notes to Referee Certification Requirements:

1. Certification at all levels requires (one-time) completion of AYSO's Safe Haven certification.
2. No minimum score required on written exam.
3. In exceptional cases, certification requirement(s) may be waived through the use of the exemption process (see p. 22 of the NRP manual).
4. Although there is no physical test requirement at this certification level, an introduction to the AYSO Physical Fitness Test is recommended.
5. An observation is not an assessment, though it has some similarities. See the section "Concerning Observation", p. 43 of the NRP manual.
6. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.58 of the NRP manual), taking the Regional Referee Course and passing the Regional Referee Exam are prerequisites for the Intermediate Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Regional Referee certification is a requirement for Intermediate Referee certification, but is not a prerequisite for the Intermediate Referee Course.
7. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.58 of the NRP manual), taking the Intermediate Referee Course and passing the Intermediate Referee Exam are prerequisites for the Advanced Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Intermediate Referee certification is a requirement for Advanced Referee certification, but is not a prerequisite for the Advanced Referee Course.
8. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.58 of the NRP manual), taking the Advanced Referee Course and passing the Advanced Referee Exam are prerequisites for the National Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Advanced Referee certification is a requirement for National Referee certification, but is not a prerequisite for the National Referee Course.
9. Field assessments for upgrade must be done based on the officiating skills needed in a typical regular season AYSO match, in the age group specified, in any soccer match using the Diagonal System of Control. Matches used for upgrade assessments are recommended to be of the duration specified for that particular age group in the AYSO National Rules and Regulations (NRR). Where NRR length matches are not readily available, the duration of matches used for upgrade assessments may be reduced to no less than 30-minute halves with the concurrence of the ARA or ADA for Advanced Referee candidates, SRA or SDA for National Referee candidates.
10. If requested by the referee being assessed, a higher age group match or a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age level (or higher) may be used for the assessment.
11. The SRA may authorize substitution (for both match count and assessment) of 116 matches for 18U matches if 18U matches are not available.
12. The verifier of certification requirements for upgrade must serve in one of the specified roles in the Region, Area, or Section in which the upgrade candidate is registered. The verification must be completed within 30 days of the submission of the completed upgrade form by the candidate to the verifier. If the verifier is unable to complete the verification for any reason, he must notify the upgrade candidate of the reason in writing within the 30 day period.
13. The assessor for an Advanced Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Area Director of Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Area in which the candidate is registered; assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's ADA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Area in which the candidate is registered. The assessor for a National Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Section Director of Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Section in which the candidate is registered; assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's SDA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Section in which the candidate is registered.

