

Referee Certification Requirements

U-8 OFFICIAL

Minimum Age: 12

Number of Games: No minimum number of games required.

Training: Complete modules 1 through 7 (U-8 Official Course) (Includes Safe Haven Referee Certification - module 1)

Testing: Take U-8 Official Exam

Assessment: Not required

Fitness Test: Not required

Service: None Required

ASSISTANT REFEREE

Minimum Age: 12

Number of Games: No minimum number of games required.

Training: Complete U-8 Official Course, plus modules 10, 11 & 12.

Testing: Not required

Assessment: Not required

Fitness Test: Not required - an introduction to the AYSO Fitness Test is recommended.

Service: None required

REGIONAL REFEREE

Minimum Age: 12

Number of Games: No minimum number of games required

Training: Complete modules 1 through 13 (Basic Referee Course) (Includes Safe Haven Referee Certification)

Testing: 75% or better on the Regional Referee Exam

Assessment: Not required

Fitness Test: Not required - an introduction to the AYSO Fitness Text is recommended

Service: None required

INTERMEDIATE REFEREE

Minimum Age: 14

Number of Games: 25 as referee with at least 5 in U-12 matches

Training: Complete modules 14 through 19 (Intermediate Referee Course)

Testing: 90% or better on the Intermediate Referee Exam

Assessment: See note 3 below

Fitness Test: Not required - practice for the AYSO Fitness Test is recommended.

Service: None required

ADVANCED REFEREE

Minimum Age: 16

Number of Games: 50 as referee (10 in U-14) and 5 as an assistant referee (in U-14)

Training: Complete modules 20 through 24 (Advanced Referee Course)

Testing: 90% or better on the Advanced Referee Exam

Assessment: One as referee and one as assistant referee in U-14 match

Fitness Test: Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level.

Service: Do a minimum of five service units. See note 4 and 5 below.

NATIONAL REFEREE

Minimum Age: 18

Number of Games: 100 as referee with at least 30 in U-16 and U-19 matches of which at least 15 must be in U-19, if available, and 25 as assistant referee with at least 10 in U-19, if available. The Section Referee Administrator may authorize substitution of U-16 for U-19, if U-19 matches are not available.

Training: Complete the National Referee Course. A pre-requisite game count of at least 80 matches as referee prior to attending the National Referee Course is required.

Testing: 90% or better on the National Referee Exam

Assessment: Two assessments as referee in U-16 or U-19 with at least one in U-19, if available, and one as assistant referee in a U-19 match, if available. The Section Referee Administrator may authorize substitution of U-16 for U-19, if U-19 matches are not available.

Fitness Test: Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level

Service: Do an additional five service units. See note 4 below.

REFEREE MENTOR

Training: Successfully complete the Intermediate Referee Course

Assessment: 90% or better on the Intermediate Referee Test

Approval: Assessed, approved and appointed as a Referee Mentor by the Regional Referee Administrator or the Regional Director of Referee Assessment.

Authorized to: Mentor regional referees for upgrade to Intermediate Referee.

REFEREE ASSESSOR

Experience: At least three (3) years of soccer experience as a referee, and must have observed or mentored referees either for improvement or upgrade and have the approval of their Regional Referee Administrator.

Training: Successfully complete the Referee Assessor Course, and 90% or better on the Advanced Referee Exam, and 90% or better combined score on the three Referee Assessor Exams.

Assessment: Successful completion of two (2) practice assessments on referees officiating U-14 AYSO matches (or equivalent). These "over-the-shoulder" assessments must be mentored by a Referee Assessor or National Assessor.

Approval: Approved as a Referee Assessor by the Area Referee Administrator or the Area Director of Referee Assessment.

Authorized to: Assess Intermediate Referees for upgrade to Advanced Referee.

NATIONAL ASSESSOR

Experience: Certified as a Referee Assessor with a minimum of one (1) year in grade and performed at least ten (10) assessments/observations, with a minimum of five (5) assessments on Intermediate Referees seeking upgrade to Advanced Referee level. The candidate must have the approval of the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Referee Assessment.

Training: Successfully complete the National Assessor Course, and 95% or better on the National Assessor Exam.

Assessment: Successful completion of one practice assessment on a referee officiating an under 16 AYSO match (or equivalent) and 1 practice assessment on a referee officiating an under 19 AYSO match (or equivalent). These "over-the-shoulder" assessments must be mentored by a National Assessor.

Approval: Approved as a National Assessor by the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Referee Assessment.

Authorized to: Assess Intermediate Referees for upgrade to Advanced Referee and Advanced Referees for upgrade to National Referee.

NOTES:

1. Field assessments for level upgrades must be done in a typical AYSO match in the age group specified, using the Diagonal System of control. Matches used for upgrade assessments must be of the duration specified for that particular age group in the AYSO National Rules and Regulations except that U-16 and U-19 matches shortened by no more than 5 minutes per half are acceptable.
2. If requested by the referee being assessed, a higher division match or a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age division (or higher) may be used for the assessment.
3. Applicants for Intermediate Referee level must be mentored by a Referee Mentor (or Assessor) and recommended for upgrade by the Regional Referee Administrator or the Regional Director of Referee Assessment. At least one observation as a referee is required, and one as an assistant referee is recommended.
4. Service units consist of: Observer-Friend observations, mentoring of new referees for development or upgrade, serving as a referee administrator, director of referee instruction or a director of referee assessment, instructing assistant referee and U-8 official training courses, instructing referee assessor training courses, assessing candidates for upgrade in referee level, if qualified. NOTE: No more than two service units may be credited by an applicant for mentoring/observing an individual referee, or one service unit per instruction course, or one service unit per year for an administrative function.
5. The requirement for performing service units is waived in the case of candidates who are under 18 years old. Entry may be at Assistant Referee, U-8 Official or Regional Referee level but, in addition to the requirements noted above, candidates for upgrade to the National Referee level must have one year (minimum) experience as an Advanced Referee.