



State Referee Association Standards

Where provided, U.S. Soccer expects State Referees Associations to establish requirements that best support the needs of the local competitions and the referees servicing them. This means that State Referee Associations are expected to work collaboratively with State Association(s) leaders and local competition authorities.

Specific to requirements associated with grade, this includes:

- Minimum age
- Previous game and grade experience

State Referee Associations are also empowered by U.S. Soccer to establish fitness, assessment and training standards outside the parameters of grade. Although independent of grade, these standards should be advanced when compared to the existing U.S. Soccer grade requirements. These advanced standards should be specific to the needs of local competitions or specific to participation in state level development programs.

If fitness standards are required for specific state level competitions, they should be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests. U.S. Soccer recommends that State Referee Associations use the established State Referee standards but the required time intervals can be adjusted if needed. It is required that a set of speed gates be used to administer the sprint tests.

If assessment standards are required, they should be conducted in accordance with the current guidelines specific to formal assessments. State Referee Associations are also able and encouraged to utilize the following:

- Development and guidance evaluations
- Scouting and identification
- Mentoring

Additional training standards can include, but are not limited to attending:

- Clinics
- Workshops
- Tournaments or other competitions

For national competitions looking to establish requirements specific to assignment, U.S. Soccer can assist in the formation and communication of these standards.

These additional standards can be instituted by State Referee Associations outside the scope of grade requirements and are intended to promote the development of referees and support the needs of local, regional and national competitions.



Grade 9 – Recreational Youth Referee

The purpose of the Grade 9 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the small-sided and recreational youth game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	12 Years of Age
Previous Game Experience	Not Applicable
Previous Grade Experience	Not Applicable
Training	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Complete Grade 9 Recertification Module
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable

Notes

- All State Referee Association requirements must be made public
- All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association and there are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
 - At a minimum, U.S. Soccer recommends that training includes the completion of all online training materials for the Grade 9 Referee Course
- The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association



Grade 8 – Competitive Youth Referee

The purpose of the Grade 8 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the competitive youth game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	14 Years of Age
Previous Game Experience	Not Applicable
Previous Grade Experience	Not Applicable
Training	Complete the Grade 8 Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Complete Grade 8 Recertification Module
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable

Notes

- All State Referee Association requirements must be made public
- All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association and there are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
 - At a minimum, U.S. Soccer recommends that training includes the completion of all online training materials for the Grade 8 Referee Course
- The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association



Grade 7 – Amateur Adult Referee

The purpose of the Grade 7 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the amateur adult game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	18 Years of Age
Previous Game Experience	Not Applicable
Previous Grade Experience	Certified Grade 8 Referee
Training	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Complete Grade 7 Recertification Module
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test
Fitness Test	Not Applicable
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable

Notes

- All State Referee Association requirements must be made public
- All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association and there are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
 - At a minimum, U.S. Soccer recommends that training includes the completion of all online training materials for the Grade 7 Referee Course
- The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association