



## Definitions of Referee Grades

**NOTE:** Referee grades are not school grades.

### Entry Level Grades

#### **United States Soccer Federation Assistant Referee Grade 12**

*Please be advised that our Referee Program uses the Grade 12 level certification to meet requirements for the STAR program of NCSL and WAGS. You should be a parent of a player with NCSL and WAGS to choose Grade 12 as your referee grade.*

- A. Minimum Age: None (State Associations may set minimum age for their games.)
  - B. Badge: USSF Assistant Referee with current year
  - C. Attend 8-hour training course taught by certified USSF instructors. Pass written test.
  - D. Authorized Assignment Level: Assistant Referee on all youth and adult games
- Note to Assignors: Minimum age of 17 suggested for assignment to adult level games.

#### **United States Soccer Federation Recreational Referee Grade 9**

*Please be advised that Grade 9/Recreational Referee is a good level for the youth referee to begin officiating as it limits the referee to recreational games. However, before you seek the training and certification at this level, you should confirm that the assignors/clubs/leagues that you would like to work for will accept this certification for game assignment.*

- A. Minimum Age: None (Recommended age is 15 or older.)
- B. Badge: USSF Recreational Referee with current year (blue badge)
- C. Attend 10-hour Recreational Referee training course taught by certified USSF instructors. Pass written test.
- D. Authorized Assignment Level: Referee on recreational youth games U-14 and younger and assistant referee on any game U-14 or below

#### **United States Soccer Federation Referee Grade 8**

- A. Minimum Age: None (Recommended age is 15 or older.)
- B. Badge: USSF Referee with current year
- C. Attend 16-hour Entry Level Referee training course taught by certified USSF instructors. Pass written test.
- D. Recommended Assignment Level: All youth games and assistant referee in comparable games. This will vary based on assignors and leagues.

## **Annual Recertification Requirements for Grades 12, 9 and 8**

These are the annual requirements to be completed before December 31 to maintain current referee grade:

- Attendance at 5-hour entry level referee re-certification class and pass written test

## **Intermediate Grades**

### **United States Soccer Federation Referee Grade 7**

A. Minimum Age: 17

B. Badge: USSF Referee with current year

C. Requirements to upgrade to Grade 7:

1. Attain Grade 8 at least 12 months prior.
2. Officiate in 75 matches as referee and 25 matches as assistant referee.
3. Pass a formal match assessment in U-17 or higher competitive match.
4. Meet the physical test requirements for age.
5. Attend 7 hour intermediate upgrade class.
6. Attend recertification class for senior referees and pass written test with 85% score.

D. Recommended Assignment Level: All youth games and mixed leagues and assistant referee in all adult games below the top division.

## **State Referee Grades**

### **United States Soccer Federation State Referee Grade 6**

A. Minimum Age: 18

B. Badge: USSF State Referee with current year

C. Requirements to upgrade to Grade 6:

1. Attain Grade 7 at least 12 months prior.
2. Officiate in 100 matches (U-19 affiliated competitive leagues or higher) as referee and 25 matches as assistant referee.
3. Pass two formal match assessments (one must be on Div 2 adult or higher competitive matches) and one as an assistant referee in U-19 competitive leagues of higher.
4. Attend a 16-hour upgrade to State referee training class.
5. Meet the physical test requirements for age.
6. Attend recertification class for senior referees and pass written state referee test with 75% score.

C. Recommended Assignment Level: All youth games and adult amateur games through Second division and assistant referee in the top adult division and Amateur Cup games.

## **United States Soccer Federation State Referee Grade 5**

A. Minimum Age: 19

B. Badge: USSF State Referee with current year.

C. Requirements to upgrade to Grade 5:

1. Attain Grade 6 at least 12 months prior.
2. Officiate in 150 matches (adult affiliated competitive leagues or higher) as referee and 50 matches as assistant referee. At least 50 of these matches must be on adult Div. 1 leagues or higher.
3. Pass two formal match assessments (one must be on Div 2 adult or higher competitive matches) and one as an assistant referee in U-19 competitive leagues of higher.
4. Attend a Regional Pro referee clinic run by USSF instructors.
5. Meet the physical test requirements for age.
6. Attend recertification class for senior referees and pass written state referee test with 85% score.

D. Recommended Assignment Level: All youth games and adult games including first division and assistant referee in professional league and international cup games.

## **Annual Recertification Requirements for Grades 7, 6 and 5**

These are the annual requirements to be completed before December 31 to maintain current referee grade:

1. Pass a formal match assessment in competitive league matches.
2. Meet physical test requirements as per referee grade and age.
3. Attendance at 5 hour senior level referee re-certification class and pass written test at required passing score.