



Unified Grading System for Match Official Performance National Assessment Program

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The following is a summary of the performance and grading system levels to be used consistently at all referee grade levels. As a result, all grade levels will be scored/graded on the same scoring or numeric system.

- The minimal passing score for all levels is 70.
- A score of 69 or less represents an unacceptable performance.
- The score range is the same whether the game assessment is for game maintenance or for upgrade. In the case of an upgrade assessment, the level of the game and the performance expectations for the referee are higher than for a maintenance assessment. Even though the scores may be the same, a 75 on a game for upgrade to grade 5 has a higher set of expectations for referee performance than a 75 on a game for maintenance as a grade 6.
- For National Candidates and National Referees, refer to U.S. Soccer National Assessment Policy “Critical Match Incident Marking” for further information relative to grading these level of officials.
- The difficulty of the game should be considered by the assessor in determining the final score based upon the definitions/comments below. A match official who has successfully managed a difficult game or who has made a difficult game competitive, may be considered for a higher score due to the challenge the game presented.

Description	Grade Range	Comments
Outstanding	90 - 100	The referee showed exceptional technical and man management skills in a match which was a major test of his/her abilities. Standard of control and law application must be of the highest order with <u>all</u> key match incidents judged correctly. Disciplinary control must be consistent, credible, and wholly correct. All technical supporting areas, including advantage application, teamwork, work rate, and positioning must be of the highest quality. A near flawless performance. A very rare performance for the level of game assigned. <i>The match should have represented a difficult to very difficult challenge for the referee.</i>

Very Good	80 – 89	<p>The referee demonstrated a high level of skill in controlling a match which is a demanding test of his/her refereeing ability. Standard of control and law application must be above analysis with all key match incidents judged correctly. Player management, disciplinary control and other technical areas should be of the high standard. No corrective advice on match control or law application will be required but very minor aspects of decision making accuracy might be questioned or minor technical advice may be offered. The referee should have been challenged with solving/preventing at least one difficult decision. <i>The match should have represented a difficult challenge for the referee.</i></p>
Acceptable	70 - 79	<p>The referee demonstrated his/her ability to control a competitive match. A standard performance where the standard of control and law application should be credible. A referee who has performed well overall but who has made a key error, that did not affect the outcome of the game, may fit this category. Player management, disciplinary control and other technical requirements should be of good standard but some advice and/or area(s) for improvement will be covered.</p>

Not Acceptable	60 - 69	<p>The referee is inconsistent in his/her decision making and dealing with players or fails to deal correctly with major incidents. Performance below expectations for this grade level referee. This may be the result of an error on a key match incident(s) affecting the outcome of the match or where application of the law and/or control require corrective action. It may also be a reflection of other technical abilities generally not matching the standard expected. Alternatively there are errors in accuracy of decision making with inconsistent law application. Control or level of involvement may not have matched the temperature of the game and there may be significant technical deficiencies that will require utmost attention for the future. A key error or errors affecting the outcome of the match may have weakened performance credibility. Clear advice and/or areas for improvement will be required in the report. The referee's performance is "not acceptable" based upon the criteria established in the "Not Acceptable Performance Policy." <i>The match was made difficult (in part) because of the referee's performance.</i></p>
Poor	50 - 59	<p>The referee makes multiple mistakes, more than expected from a referee of this grade level. He/she would also be classified as "poor" if he/she fails to take the correct action in major incident(s) either on or off the field involving violent conduct, aggressive confrontations, etc. Performance well below the expectations for a Referee at this level.</p>
Performance Subject to Review	49 or less	<p>The referee demonstrated a serious failure to control the match, to apply the Laws of the Game and deal with major situations during and after the match. Referee should be closely monitored and his/her present grade reviewed if this performance is repeated.</p>