

**Criteria for Certifying  
Assistant Referee and Recreational Referee**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Assistant Referee Grade 12</b>	<b>Recreational Referee Grade 9</b>
Minimum age	None – state associations may set minimum age	None
Experience (minimum cumulative career outdoor games at designated level)	Must have played at least three years of adult, college or competitive youth soccer, or officiated at least three years as U.S. Soccer grade 9.	Not applicable
Game level to be counted for advancement	Not applicable	Not applicable
Time in present grade	Not applicable	Not applicable
Training course requirements	Successfully complete the 7.5 hour U.S. Soccer Assistant Referee Training Course	Successfully complete 8 hour U.S. Soccer Recreational Referee Training Course
Written Examination	75% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Assistant Referee Exam	75% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Recreational Referee Exam
Field Evaluation by currently registered U.S. Soccer Assessor	Not required. It is recommended that new referees be observed in one of their first 10 games.	Not required. It is recommended that new referees be observed in one of their first 10 games.
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Not required
<b>Annual Renewal Requirements</b>		
In-Service Training	Five hours during the preceding 12 months	Four hours during the preceding 12 months
Refresher Exam	Passing score of 75% required	Passing score of 75% required.
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Not required

**Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading  
Referee**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Referee Grade 8</b>	<b>Referee Grade 7</b>
Minimum age	None – state associations may set minimum age	17
Experience (minimum cumulative career affiliated outdoor games at designated level)	Not applicable	Referee: 75 Assistant Referee: 25
Game level to be counted for advancement	Not applicable	U.S. Soccer Federation Games
Time in present grade	Not applicable	12 months as Referee Grade 8
Training course requirements	Successfully complete U.S. Soccer Referee Training Course (or the Referee Bridge Course to upgrade from 9 to 8)	5 hours of U.S. Soccer Intermediate Level Training above normal recertification clinics, i.e. intermediate, advanced, regional/ pro clinics.
Written Examination	75% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Referee Exam	85% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Referee Exam
Field Evaluation by currently registered U.S. Soccer Assessor	Not required. It is recommended that new referees be observed in one of their first 10 games.	Pass one evaluation as referee in an affiliated Under-17 or higher level game employing the DSC
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Required (with passing score)
<b>Annual Renewal Requirements</b>		
In-Service Training	Five hours during the preceding 12 months	Five hours during the preceding 12 months
Refresher Exam	Passing Score of 75% Required	Passing Score of 85% Required
Field Evaluation	Not required	1 developmental assessment, at any level designated by the state (U-17 or higher recommended), <i>if adopted by state</i>
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Required (with passing score)

## Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading State Referee

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>State Referee Grade 6</b>	<b>State Referee Grade 5</b>
Minimum age	18	19
Experience - minimum cumulative career affiliated outdoor games at designated level	Referee: 100 (U-18 Affiliated Competitive Leagues, or higher) Assistant Referee: 25	Referee: 150 (50 games on Adult Div. 1) Assistant Referee: 50
Game level to be counted for advancement	Under-18 Affiliated Competitive leagues or higher level or from the U.S. Soccer list of approved games.	Of the 150 games a minimum of 50 must be on adult Division 1 league games or higher or from the U.S. Soccer list of approved games.
Time in present grade	12 months as Referee Grade 7 prior to application	12 months as State Grade 6 prior to application
Training course requirements	19 hour State Referee Training Course	7 hours of In-Service State Referee Training
Written Examination	75% minimum score on U.S. Soccer State Referee Exam	85% minimum score on U.S. Soccer State Referee Exam
Field Evaluation by currently registered U.S. Soccer Assessor*	Pass two field assessments as referee (one must be on Div. 2 adult or higher) and one as assistant referee in Under-17 competitive league or higher or from the U.S. Soccer list of approved games.	Pass two field assessments as referee and one as assistant referee in affiliated top adult Division 1 leagues or higher or from the U.S. Soccer list of approved games.
Physical Fitness Test	Required (with passing score- see page 26)	Required (with passing score-see page 26)
<b>Annual Renewal Requirements</b>		
In-Service Training	Five hours during the preceding 12 months	Five hours during the preceding 12 months
Refresher Exam	Passing grade of 75% required	Passing grade of 85% required
Field Assessment*	One assessment as a referee at Div. 2 adult match or higher.	One assessment as referee on a Div. 1 or higher game required.
Physical Fitness Test	Required (with passing score)	Required (with passing score)

\*For upgrading Grade 5/6 referees, the assessments should be completed within a 12-month period. No more than 2 failing assessments can occur within that time period. If a candidate fails a third assessment in a 12-month period, the referee must start the upgrade procedure over for the next registration cycle, starting with zero assessments. For all upgrading referees, a failing assessment must be made up by two passing assessments in addition to the original required number of assessments.

**Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading  
National / Professional Referee**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>National Referee Grade 4</b>	<b>Professional Referee Grade 3</b>
Minimum age	23	23
Experience (minimum cumulative career outdoor games at designated level)	Referee: 175* (75* must be affiliated Div. 1 adult or higher; 5 must be professional games) Assistant Referee: 100 (5 must be professional games or "other approved" matches).	Same as for Grade 4
Game level to be counted for advancement	Affiliated Adult League or higher	Same as for Grade 4
Time in present grade	2 years as Grade 5 prior to application date. Foreign-trained referees must have been a U.S. Soccer Referee for a minimum of one year.	Same as for Grade 4
Training course requirements	Attend and successfully complete a National Referee Certification Session.	Same as for Grade 4
Written Examination	Must pass a special National Referee Examination.	Same as for Grade 4
Field Evaluation	As required for renewal; (See page 24)	As required for renewal; (See page 24)
Physical Fitness Test	U.S. Soccer Physical Fitness Test successfully completed as per grade standards (See page 26)	Interval Fitness Test successfully completed as per grade standards ( See page 27)
Citizenship	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident

**National/Professional Referee  
Annual Assessment Requirements**

For each 12 month certification period designated by U.S. Soccer (December 1 to November 30)

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Current National, Professional, and FIFA Referees Grades 1, 2 and 3</b>
<p><b>Annual Field Assessment Requirements</b> (done by current National Assessor or U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector)</p>	<p>(1) 3 passed assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 as Referee / 1 as Assistant Referee</li> <li>• 1 Referee and 1 Assistant Referee assessment must be on a professional game or approved other game.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Referee Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 assessment must be on a Professional level game or other game approved by the National Office.</li> <li>• 1 assessment on Division 1 amateur or higher game.</li> </ul> <p>(3) Assistant Referee Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 assessment on Other Professional League Matches or other game approved by the National Office.</li> </ul> <p>(4) Exception: former FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees and Professional Referees working a minimum of 5 matches in the Top National Professional League Division 1 as either Referee or Assistant Referee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must pass 3 Top National Professional League Division 1 or other approved game match assessments in the position they have done their 5 Top National Professional League Division 1 games in.</li> </ul> <p>(5) 1 passing referee assessment must be done by a U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector.</p> <p>(6) A minimum score of 70 is required to pass.</p> <p>(7) Each assessment as referee and assistant referee must be done by different assessors except that 1 assessment as a referee and assistant referee may be done by the same assessor.</p> <p>(8) Only one assessment per day may be submitted.</p>
<p><b>Failed Assessments</b></p>	<p>(1) A first failed assessment (as a referee or assistant referee) must be made up by a single passing assessment at the same game level or higher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exception: If the failed assessment is at the Top National Professional League Division 1 level, the make-up must be done at the Foreign Pro Club vs. Foreign Pro Club level or higher and by a U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector.</li> </ul> <p>(2) A second failed assessment (as a referee or assistant referee) must be made up by 2 passing assessments at the same game level or higher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exception: If the failed assessment is at the Top National Professional League Division 1 level, the make-up must be done at the Foreign Pro Club vs. Foreign Pro Club level or higher and by a U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector.</li> </ul> <p>(3) On the third failed assessment in a certification period (in any combination of referee or assistant referee),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Referee is required to restart the National Candidate application procedure in the next registration cycle.</li> </ul>

**National Referee Candidate  
Annual Assessment Requirements**

For each 12 month certification period designated by U.S. Soccer (December 1 to November 30)

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>National Referee Candidate For Upgrade to Grade 4</b>
<p><b>Annual Field Assessment Requirements</b> (done by current National Assessor or U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector)</p>	<p>(1) 5 passed assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 as Referee / 2 as Assistant Referee</li> </ul> <p>(2) Referee Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 assessments must be on a Professional level game or other game approved by the National Office.</li> <li>• 1 assessment on Division 1 amateur or higher game.</li> </ul> <p>(3) Assistant Referee Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 assessment must be on a Professional League Match game or other game approved by the National Office.</li> <li>• 1 assessment on Division 1 amateur or higher game.</li> </ul> <p>(4) 1 passing referee assessment must be done by a U.S. Soccer Referee Inspector.</p> <p>(5) A minimum score of 70 is required to pass.</p> <p>(6) Referee and assistant referee assessments must be done by different assessors except that the 2 assistant referee assessments may be done by assessors who did referee assessments as long as the assessor does no more than 1 of the 2 required assistant referee assessments.</p> <p>(7) Only one assessment per day may be submitted.</p>
<p><b>Failed Assessments</b></p>	<p>(1) A first failed assessment must be made up by two passing assessments at the same game level or higher.</p> <p>(2) A second failed assessment in a certification period (in any combination of referee or assistant referee),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires restarting the National Candidate application procedure in the next registration cycle.</li> </ul>

## Physical Fitness Test

A physical fitness test is required for registration, annual renewal and upgrading for the referee classes shown. The test can be administered by designated U.S. Soccer Federation Instructors. A document signed by the individual conducting the test is required. Fitness tests must be taken within a six-month period preceding the start of a new season or the date of registration.

The referee must pass all of the events that are part of the test at the same testing session. A reasonable rest period should be allowed between events. The procedure is to run the Endurance Test first.

### Physical Fitness Test Requirements

Segment	Age	Referee Grade 7	State Referee Grades 5 & 6
Endurance (12 minute run-meters)	Under 38 38 – 45 Over 45	2200 meters 2000 meters 1800 meters	2400 meters 2200 meters 2000 meters
Speed Test 50 meter dash (run – once)	Under 46 Over 45	9.0 seconds 9.5 seconds	9.0 seconds 9.0 seconds
200 meter dash (run – once)	All Ages	40.0 seconds	40.0 seconds

### National Referee Physical Fitness Test Requirements

Includes referees eligible for: Division 1 Women, Division 2 Men, Division 3 Men.

Interval Testing Time to run 150 m. 10 -14 laps*	Interval Testing Time to walk 50 m. 10-14 laps*	Sprint Test 40 m. – 6 times
35 sec.	40 sec.	6.6 sec.

\* The minimum number of laps will be prescribed annually by the national office. National Referee Candidates must also pass the National Referee Physical Fitness Test requirements.

The National Referee Physical Fitness Test is a pass or fail test. A referee may fail one (1) of the six (6) sprints and still pass. Two (2) or more over the standard time results in failure. The interval testing requires that a referee be at the next segment before time is expired or the referee fails the fitness test.