

How do I become a Soccer Referee?

Becoming a soccer referee is a great way to contribute to the sport and to the players. It is also an excellent motivator to improve your physical fitness level. You can also find the age level of play you enjoy, whether it is working with younger players or tackling the challenges of adults.

Becoming a referee is the start of a journey toward learning a set of skills. Some of the skills are specific to the game, while others are lifetime skills of confidence, decision-making, handling diverse situations in the moment and dealing with a wide variety of people.

You begin by attending classes where you will learn the Laws of the Game, the Spirit of the Game, what are fouls, offside and misconduct and how to deal with them. Classes are held in various areas throughout the state. You can take the classes anywhere and be able to work games anywhere.

As you begin to work games, you will discover ways to become better through reflecting on your games, further learning and working with mentors and assessors. Working tournaments where you can talk to other referees, watch other referees and perhaps attend a referee academy. You can advance as far as your desires and abilities take you.

Frequently asked questions

1. Q: How do I become a U.S.S.F. certified referee?

A: To become a U.S.S.F. certified referee, visit the Ohio South State Referee Committee website at www.ossrc.com. Click on “clinic” to view upcoming clinics. For new referees, you will need to attend and successfully complete an entry level course. To maintain your certification as a referee, you must attend a recertification clinic annually.

2. Q: Who is considered a “new” referee?

A: A new referee is someone who has not previously been certified as a U.S.S.F official or someone who has been previously certified but has not recertified as a referee in the past 2 years.

3. Q: How often do I need to recertify as a referee?

A: All referees need to attend a recertification class annually. Again, these classes can be found under the clinics tab on the OSSRC website at www.ossrc.com.

4. Q: Do I need to register for the clinic I wish to attend?

A: As of now, you do not need to pre-register for an entry level referee clinic, simply show up for the class per the directions listed on www.ossrc.com for the clinic you plan to attend.

5. Q: How old do I need to be to become a referee?

A: The Ohio South State Referee Committee requires you be 13 years old during the calendar year of registration to become a referee.

6. Q: What is the difference between a grade 12 referee and a grade 8 referee?

A: A grade 12 referee certification allows you to work as an assistant referee only. A grade 8 referee certification allows you to work as an assistant referee or a center referee.

7. Q: What do I need to do before I show up for my clinic?

A: Before you attend a referee clinic, it is required that you view and complete the USSF online Grade 8 Referee Course Modules located at <http://www.usoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Referee-Resources/Grade-8-Referee-Course.aspx>.

8. Q: Where can I get assignments for league games?

A: In Cincinnati: local club assignors
In Dayton: www.dasoa.org
In Columbus: www.mossl.org

9. Q: What if I forgot my OSSRC password?

A: If you have forgotten your password select “Member Login” at www.ossrc.com and enter your email address in the “Don’t Know Your Password” section. Select your name and your ID and password will be emailed to you. If your name is not listed, have you changed your email address in the past year? If your email address has not changed contact your District Referee Administrator. Their information is found on www.ossrc.com under Administration.