

Appendix

AYSO Referee Training Matrix

Course	Description	Length	Prerequisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Verification of Lead Instructor Requirement by
REFEREE TRAINING COURSES					
8U Official	This in-person course trains volunteers to officiate in 8U matches.	3 hours	None	Regional Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
8U Official - Online	This online course trains volunteers to officiate in 8U matches.	3 hours	None	None	None
Regional Referee Online Training and Regional Referee Online Companion	This two-part training consists of an online, self-paced training course located at AYSOU and a separate class with a live instructor. Together provide training equivalent to that of the Regional Referee Course.	Online: 1.5 hours Class: 3 hours	Online training must be completed before attending the Companion course.	Regional Referee Instructor (for Companion course)	Regional Referee Administrator
Regional Referee	This course trains referees in the basic aspects of refereeing needed to do AYSO matches under IFAB <i>Laws of the Game</i> , and AYSO National Rules & Regulations.	6 hours	None	Regional Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
Intermediate Referee	This course trains referees to do more physically demanding, and challenging matches under IFAB <i>Laws of the Game</i> , and AYSO National Rules & Regulations.	8 hours	Regional Referee Course and Pass Regional Referee Exam	Intermediate Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Advanced Referee	This course trains referees to do most matches under IFAB <i>Laws of the Game</i> , and AYSO National Rules & Regulations.	8 hours	Intermediate Referee	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
National Referee	This course trains referees to referee all AYSO matches under IFAB <i>Laws of the Game</i> , and AYSO National Rules & Regulations.	15 hours	Advanced Referee with 12 months experience	National Referee Instructor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction

Course	Description	Length	Prerequisites	Minimum Lead Instructor Requirements	Verification of Lead Instructor Requirement by
REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING COURSES					
Regional Referee Administrator Training	This training teaches Regional Referee Administrators the essential activities needed to manage a referee program.	2.5 hours	None	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Area Referee Administrator Training	This training teaches Area Referee Administrators the essential activities to manage an Area Referee program.	1.25 hours	Regional Referee Administrator Training	Advanced Referee Instructor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
ASSESSOR TRAINING COURSES					
Referee Mentor	This course trains already-certified referees to be certified mentors for less-experienced referees, youth referees, and referees seeking upgrades.	1.5 hours	Regional Referee	Intermediate Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Referee Assessor	This course trains assessors to assess officiating skills at the Advanced level.	4.5 hours	None	Advanced Referee Instructor, and either a Referee Assessor or National Referee Assessor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Assessment
National Referee Assessor	This course trains Assessors to assess refereeing skills at the National level.	5 hours	Referee Assessor with 12 months experience	National Referee Instructor, and National Referee Assessor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Assessment
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSES					
Regional Referee Instructor Intermediate Referee Instructor	This entry-level training teaches instructor candidates how to conduct Regional, and Intermediate Referee training courses using AYSO teaching plans.	11 hours	Introduction to Instruction Intermediate Referee	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Advanced Referee Instructor	This training teaches Intermediate Referee Instructors how to conduct advanced referee training courses using AYSO teaching plans.	10.8 hours	Intermediate Referee Instructor	Advanced Referee Instructor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
National Referee Instructor	This certification (not a course) is accomplished through mentoring while assisting with National Referee Courses.	Variable	Advanced Referee Instructor National Referee Referee Instructor Evaluator Referee Assessor	SRA or SDRI assigns a mentor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction
Referee Instructor Evaluator	This training teaches Advanced Referee Instructors (or higher) to evaluate other instructors and provide constructive feedback.	5.5 hours	Advanced Referee Advanced Referee Instructor	Advanced Referee Instructor	Section Referee Administrator or Director of Referee Instruction

Notes:

- This table shows training information only. For certification requirements, see the next section.
- Volunteers may attend training courses without having the listed prerequisites, but that course may not be used to satisfy a certification requirement.

AYSO Referee Certification Requirements

NOTE: It is highly recommended that all Referees be a minimum of two years older than the oldest player in the division matches to which they have been assigned.

8U OFFICIAL	
Age:	10 or older
Training:	8U Official Course
Test:	Complete the 8U Official Exam
Notes:	1, 2, 3
ASSISTANT REFEREE	
Age:	12 or older
Training:	Assistant Referee Course
Test:	Score 75% or higher on the Assistant Referee Exam
Notes:	1, 2, 3
REGIONAL REFEREE	
Age:	12 or older
Training:	Regional Referee Course or be an 8U Official, and complete 8U to Regional Referee Course
Test:	Score 75% or higher on the Regional Referee Exam
Notes:	1, 3, 4
INTERMEDIATE REFEREE	
Age:	14 or older
Games:	25 as a referee with at least 5 in 12U matches
Prerequisite:	Certification as Regional Referee
Training:	Intermediate Referee Course
Test:	Score 85% or higher on the Intermediate Referee Exam
Observation:	One observation as a referee in a 12U match is required
Verification:	Area (or Section) Referee Administrator or Area (or Section) Director of Assessment
Notes:	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12
ADVANCED REFEREE	
Age:	16 or older
Games:	50 as a referee with at least 10 in 14U matches, and 5 as an assistant referee in 14U matches
Prerequisite:	Certification as Intermediate Referee
Training:	Advanced Referee Course
Test:	Score 90% or higher on the Advanced Referee Exam
Assessment:	One as a referee in a 14U match, and one as an assistant referee in a 14U match
Fitness Test:	AYSO Physical Fitness Test for the Advanced level
Verification:	Area (or Section) Referee Administrator or Area (or Section) Director of Assessment
Notes:	1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13
NATIONAL REFEREE	
Age:	18 or older
Games:	100 as a referee with at least 30 in 16U, and 19U matches, of which at least 15 must be in 19U matches if available, and 25 as an assistant referee with at least 10 in 19U matches, if available
Prerequisite:	Certification as Advanced Referee with 12 months experience
Training:	National Referee Course. It is strongly recommended that the candidate complete at least 80 matches as a referee before attending the National Referee Course
Test:	Score 90% or higher on the National Referee Exam
Assessment:	Two as a referee in 16U or 19U matches with at least one in 19U, if available, and one as an assistant referee in an 19U match, if available
Experience:	A minimum of one year of experience as an AYSO Advanced Referee
Fitness Test:	AYSO Physical Fitness Test for the National level
Verification:	Section Referee Administrator or Section Director of Referee Assessment
Notes:	1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

Notes to Referee Certification Requirements:

1. Certification at all levels requires (one-time) completion of AYSO's Safe Haven certification, and current registration as an AYSO volunteer. Adult volunteers are required to complete a background check annually. CDC Concussion training, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest are required by some states and are otherwise strongly recommended. For adults, SafeSport is required annual training. See [AYSOvolunteers.org](https://www.ayso.org/volunteers) for details.
2. No minimum score is required on the written exam.
3. In exceptional cases, certification requirement(s) may be waived through the use of the [exemption process](#) (see page 14).
4. Although there is no physical test requirement at this certification level, an introduction to the AYSO Physical Fitness Test is recommended.
5. An observation is not an assessment, though it has some similarities. See the section "[Concerning Observations](#)", page 36.
6. As indicated in the [Referee Training Matrix](#) (page 51), taking the Regional Referee Course, and passing the Regional Referee Exam are prerequisites for the Intermediate Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Regional Referee certification is a requirement for Intermediate Referee certification but is not typically a prerequisite for the Intermediate Referee Course.
7. As indicated in the [Referee Training Matrix](#) (page 51), Intermediate Referee certification is a requirement for taking the Advanced Referee Course.
8. As indicated in the [Referee Training Matrix](#) (page 51), Advanced Referee certification with 12 months of experience is a prerequisite for the National Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement.
9. Field assessments for upgrade must be done based on the officiating skills needed in a typical regular season AYSO match, in the age group specified, in any soccer game using the Diagonal System of Control. Matches used for upgrade assessments are recommended to be of the duration specified for that particular age group in the AYSO National Rules & Regulations (NRR). Where NRR length matches are not readily available, the duration of matches used for upgrade assessments may be reduced to no less than 30-minute halves with the concurrence of the ARA or ADRA for Advanced Referee candidates, SRA or SDRA for National Referee candidates.
10. If requested by the referee being assessed, a higher age group match or a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age level (or higher) may be used for the assessment.
11. The SRA may authorize substitution (for both game count and assessment) of 16U matches for 19U matches if 19U matches are not available.
12. The verifier of certification requirements for upgrade must serve in one of the specified roles in the Region, Area, or Section in which the upgrade candidate is registered. The verification must be completed within 30 days of the submission of the completed upgrade form by the candidate to the verifier. If the verifier is unable to complete the verification for any reason, the verifier must notify the upgrade candidate of the reason in writing within 30 days.
13. The assessor for an Advanced Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Area Director of Referee Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Area in which the candidate is registered; the assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's ADRA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Area in which the candidate is registered.
14. The assessor for a National Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Section Director of Referee Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Section in which the candidate is registered; the assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's SDRA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Section in which the candidate is registered.

Referee Instructor Evaluator

In the following order:

1. Be a currently registered AYSO volunteer, and have completed Safe Haven, CDC Concussion, Sudden Cardiac Arrest (where required by law), and current SafeSport training
2. Be an Advanced Referee Instructor
3. Complete the Referee Instructor Evaluator Course
4. Pass two required practice evaluations
5. Application for certification verified by Section Referee Administrator or Section Director of Referee Instruction

AYSO Referee Assessor, and Mentor Requirements

REFEREE MENTOR	
Experience:	Certified as a Regional Referee
Training:	Successfully complete the Referee Mentor Course
Testing:	None
Appointment:	Appointed as a Referee Mentor by the Regional Referee Administrator or Regional Director of Assessment
Authorized to:	Advise 8U Officials, Assistant Referees, and Regional Referees. When assessors are not available, observe Regional Referees for the upgrade to Intermediate Referee.
REFEREE ASSESSOR	
Experience:	At least three (3) years of soccer experience as a referee and must have performed five (5) observations for service or upgrade to Intermediate Referee. The candidate must be an Advanced Referee or higher and must have the approval of the Regional or Area Referee Administrator.
Training:	Successfully complete the Referee Assessor Course
Testing:	Pass the Advanced Referee Examination, and the Assessor Examination.
Assessment:	Successful completion of two (2) practice assessments on referees officiating 14U AYSO matches (or equivalent). These "over-the-shoulder" assessments must be mentored by a Referee Assessor or National Referee Assessor.
Approval:	Approved as a Referee Assessor by the Area Referee Administrator or the Area Director of Referee Assessment.
Authorized to:	Advise 8U Officials, Assistant Referees, and Regional Referees. Observe Regional Referees for the upgrade to Intermediate Referee and assess Intermediate Referees for the upgrade to Advanced Referee.
NATIONAL REFEREE ASSESSOR	
Experience:	Certified as a Referee Assessor with a minimum of one (1) year in grade and performed at least ten (10) assessments/observations, with a minimum of five (5) assessments on Intermediate Referees seeking an upgrade to the Advanced Referee level. The candidate must be a National Referee and must have the approval of the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Referee Assessment.
Training:	Successfully complete the National Referee Assessor Course.
Testing:	Pass the National Referee Examination, and the National Referee Assessor Examination.
Assessment:	Successful completion of two practice assessments of a referee officiating a 19U AYSO match (or equivalent) or 16U AYSO match (or equivalent) if 19U is not available. These "over-the-shoulder" assessments must be mentored by a National Referee Assessor.
Approval:	Approved as a National Referee Assessor by the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Referee Assessment.
Authorized to:	Advise 8U Officials, Assistant Referees, and Regional Referees. Observe Regional Referees for the upgrade to Intermediate Referee, assess Intermediate Referees for the upgrade to Advanced Referee, and Advanced Referees for the upgrade to National Referee.

AYSO Referee Physical Fitness Test

The referee physical fitness test is designed to test the referee's ability to stay up with play and to react to match situations encountered at these levels. All referees should warm up before taking the test by performing stretching exercises to prevent muscle pulls.

Administering Referee Physical Tests

Physical tests for certification as an Advanced Referee are authorized by the Area Referee Administrator or Area Director of Referee Assessment. Physical tests for certification as a National Referee are authorized by the Section Referee Administrator or Section Director of Referee Assessment. Others may be designated to administer the test. Fitness tests administered by USSF may be used to comply with AYSO fitness test requirements.

Physical Testing Conditions

Part of the upgrade requirements to Advanced, and National referees include testing the candidate's physical condition. The following considerations are important for those who may be involved in administering physical tests:

- Suitable running surface (well-marked, smooth, level, track or mowed grass)
- Weather conditions (temperature extremes, rain, natural or artificial lighting)
- Ample time (warm-up, rest between events, and cool-down)
- Sufficient timers to avoid long waits to be tested (staff at start, and finish lines)
- Volunteer safety provisions (tent or another shady area, cot, water/orange juice, availability of first aid, cell phone in case of medical emergency)
- Proper Equipment (forms, stopwatches, cones, clipboards)
- Remind the candidates that it is not a race to see who is the fastest but rather a test of their ability to meet minimum physical standards. (Avoid unnecessary exertion.)

Physical Requirements

All three parts of the physical fitness examination should be conducted on the same day, with 15 minutes between events. These parts are:

- **Endurance Run:** This event consists of a run/jog for the entire 12 minutes, regardless of the distance covered on a standard 400-meter track (440 yards). A minimum distance must be completed.
- **Speed Run (50-meter or 55-yard dash):** This run is a straight 50-meter (55-yard) dash, and must be completed in no more than the time allowed.
- **Speed Run (200-meter or 220-yard dash):** This run is a 200-meter (220-yard) dash, and must be completed in no more than the time allowed.

CERTIFICATION	TEST	REQUIREMENTS	
Advanced Referee	Endurance Run	Must run for 12 minutes, and cover at least one mile (1600 meters)	
	Speed Run (50 meters)	Maximum 10.5 seconds	
	Speed Run (200 meters)	Maximum 42 seconds	
National Referee	Endurance Run	Must run for 12 minutes, and cover:	
		Age	Minimum Distance
		Under 38	2200 meters (5.5 laps)
		38-45	2000 meters (5.0 laps)
		46 & over	1800 meters (4.5 laps)
	Speed Run (50 meters)	Age	Maximum Time
		Under 46	9.0 seconds
		46 & over	9.5 seconds
	Speed Run (200 meters)	Maximum 40 seconds	