



State Referee Association Standards

Where provided, U.S. Soccer expects State Referees Associations to establish requirements that best support the needs of the local competitions and the referees servicing them. This means that State Referee Associations are expected to work collaboratively with State Association(s) leaders and local competition authorities.

Specific to requirements associated with grade, this includes:

- Minimum age
- Previous game and grade experience
- Additional assessment requirements for Grade 6 State Referees

State Referee Associations are also empowered by U.S. Soccer to establish fitness, assessment and training standards outside the parameters of grade. Although independent of grade, these standards should be advanced when compared to the existing grade requirements. These advanced standards should be specific to the needs of local competitions or specific to participation in state level development programs.

If fitness standards are required for specific state level competitions, they should be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests. U.S. Soccer recommends that State Referee Associations use the established State Referee standards but the required time intervals can be adjusted if needed.

If assessment standards are required, they should be conducted in accordance with the current guidelines specific to formal assessments. State Referee Associations are also able and encouraged to utilize the following:

- Development and guidance evaluations
- Scouting and identification
- Mentoring

Additional training standards can include, but are not limited to attending:

- Clinics
- Workshops
- Tournaments or other competitions

For national competitions looking to establish requirements specific to assignment, U.S. Soccer can assist in the formation and communication of these standards.

Again, these additional standards can be instituted by State Referee Associations outside the scope of grade requirements and are intended to promote the development of referees and support the needs of local, regional and national competitions.

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Grade 9 – Referee

The purpose of the Grade 9 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the small sided and recreational youth game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	11 years old as of Jan 1 in the year of registration
Previous Game Experience	None
Previous Grade Experience	None
Training	Complete the Grade 9 Referee Course*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Attend Grade 9 Recertification Clinic*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***

Notes

- * All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee. There are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
- ** The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee.
- *** Review the Michigan Referee Committee Standards document for more information

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Grade 8 – Referee

The purpose of the Grade 8 Referee Course is to prepare officials for competitive youth games. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	14 years old as of Jan 1 in the year of registration*
Previous Game Experience	None*
Previous Grade Experience	Grade 9 or previous comparable experience ****
Training	Complete the Grade 8 Referee Bridge Course*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Attend Grade 8 Recertification Clinic*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***

Notes

- * All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee. There are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
- ** The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee.
- *** Review the Michigan Referee Committee Standards document for more information.
- **** Applicants with previous comparable experience should submit a summary of their experiences to the Michigan Referee Committee for review.

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Grade 7 – Referee

The purpose of the Grade 7 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the amateur adult game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	17 years old as of Jan 1 in the year of registration
Previous Game Experience	75 games at U16 and above
Previous Grade Experience	12 months as a Grade 8
Training	Complete the Grade 7 Referee Course*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Attend Grade 7 Recertification Clinic*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Not Applicable***
Practical Evaluation	Not Applicable***

Notes

- * All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee. There are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
- ** The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee.
- *** Review the Michigan Referee Committee Standards document for more information

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Grade 6 – State Referee

The purpose of the Grade 6 State Referee Course is to prepare officials for the most competitive matches within their state and region. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements	
Age	18 years old as of Jan 1 in the year of registration
Previous Game Experience	100 games as referee and 25 games as AR at U19 and above
Previous Grade Experience	12 months as a grade 7
Training	Complete the Grade 6 State Referee Course*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 6 State Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Test
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by 2 State Assessors***
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Attend State Referee Recertification*
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 6 State Referee Test**
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Test
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by 2 State Assessors***

Notes

- * All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee. There are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
- ** The passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the Michigan Referee Committee.
- *** Minimum of 2 passing assessments that meet the “sufficient test criteria” (from affiliated games with a minimum of 40 minute halves) completed by 2 different state assessors, and at least one of these assessments must be from an adult game.



FIFA Sprint and Interval Test

Sprint Test

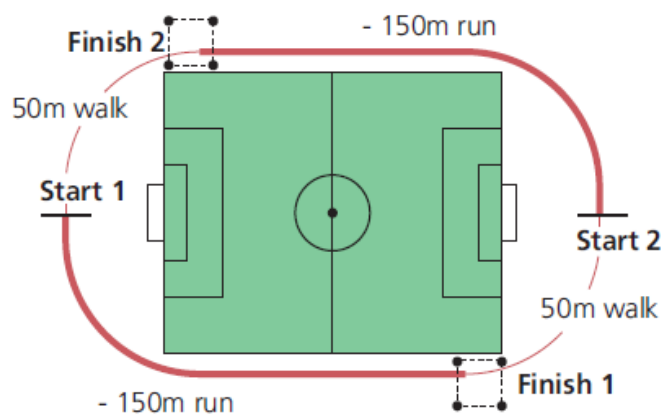
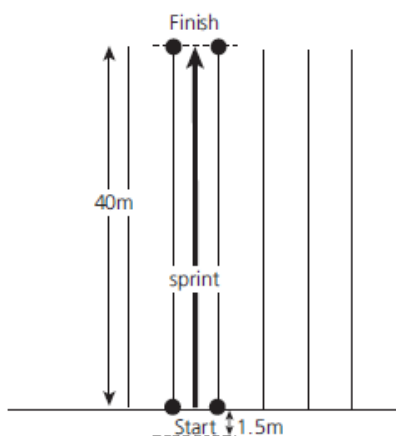
- Participants run six consecutive 40 meter sprints followed by a recovery period after each sprint (while walking back to the start line)
- Dynamic start with the front foot on a line that is 1.5 meters away from the electronic timing gates at the starting position
- If a participant falls or trips, they are allowed another attempt at that specific sprint
- If a participant fails one sprint out of the six, they are given one more attempt immediately after the sixth sprint
- If a participant fails two sprints, they fail the test

Interval Test

- Participants run a total of ten consecutive laps
- A lap consists of two 150 meter runs with two 50 meter recovery walks
 - Starts with running 150 meters in the prescribed time
 - Followed by walking 50 meters in the prescribed time
 - This process is repeated to complete one lap
- Walking area is marked by cones 3 meters on each side of the 150 meter marks
- If a participant fails to reach the walking area in the prescribed time, they are issued a warning
- If a participant fails to reach the walking area for a second time, they fail the test

Notes

- The time between the sprint test and interval test should be approximately 10 minutes





Grade 6 State Referee Standards

Sprint Test

- Maximum of 10 seconds per sprint

Interval Test

- Maximum of 45 seconds for the 150 meter run
- Maximum of 45 seconds for the 50 meter walk

Selection Policy for National Candidates and National Officials

Beginning July 1, 2014, all National Candidates and National Officials will be selected and managed directly by U.S. Soccer. National Candidates will be designated as Grade 5 and National Officials will continue to be designated as Grade 4. These officials must meet a combination of administrative and technical requirements in addition to submitting a portfolio. All requirements and portfolios will be reviewed and approved by a Selection Panel established by U.S. Soccer.

This panel will include individuals with experience at the professional and/or international levels, and it will oversee the highly selective process of determining the pool of National Candidates and National Officials for the specific registration year.

The review process is both quantitative and qualitative, and the Selection Panel will evaluate career performance data along with the official's record of servicing the game as part of the approval process. Officials are encouraged to exceed all minimum standards in order to provide the best possible portfolio for consideration.

A strong portfolio is one that displays an official's pursuit of challenging assignments and assessments from a variety of competitive leagues and events at the state, regional and national levels.

This policy encourages officials to be active in servicing the game and promotes working a variety of competitive leagues and events at the state, regional and national levels.

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Grade 5 – National Candidate

Certification Requirements	
Nationality	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
Previous Game Experience	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Training	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Fitness Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Practical Evaluation	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Fitness Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Practical Evaluation	Determined by U.S. Soccer

Notes

- All U.S. Soccer requirements will be communicated to the applicable individuals

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Grade 4 – National Official

Certification Requirements	
Nationality	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
Previous Game Experience	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Training	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Fitness Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 3 completed by 3 National Assessors
Annual Recertification Requirements	
Training	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Fitness Test	Determined by U.S. Soccer
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 3 completed by 3 National Assessors

Notes

- All U.S. Soccer requirements will be communicated to the applicable individuals
- Minimum of 3 passing assessments that meet the sufficient test criteria (from affiliated games with a minimum of 40 minute halves) completed by three different National Assessors, and at least 1 of these assessments must be from an adult game
 - U.S. Soccer may establish additional assessment requirements



Physically Unable to Perform Policy

If a National Official is unable to perform the physical duties required of a referee or assistant referee, including the completion of the fitness test required for certification at that level, he or she must contact U.S. Soccer and request to be placed on the Physically Unable to Perform (PUP) list.

When applying for PUP list consideration, officials are required to provide a comprehensive written description of why they are unable to perform physically. All requests must be submitted in writing to Nicole Ward at nward@ussoccer.org. Depending on the nature of the request, officials may also be required to provide medical documentation.

Inclusion of the PUP list can include but is not limited to:

- Pregnancy
- Injury

If approved and placed on the PUP list, the individual will be allowed to have his or her registration record remain pending until the fitness test requirement is completed. Once the fitness test requirement is completed, the certification process will be completed and processed accordingly. Note that individuals are still responsible for satisfying all requirements, other than the taking of the fitness test, according to the established deadlines.

Any registration of a National Official on the PUP list will not be approved or certified for the current year and therefore, he or she may not officiate in any capacity until all grade requirements are met.

All expenses associated with the hosting and taking of the required fitness test are the responsibility of the official looking to exit the PUP list. Note that all aspects of the fitness test must be approved by U.S. Soccer prior to the test being conducted.

Officials will also be required to provide a doctor's note prior to taking the required fitness test required to come off the PUP list.

An official may not remain on the PUP list beyond the applicable registration year and U.S. Soccer reserves the right to remove an individual from the PUP list at any time for any reason.

Note that this policy is specific to National Officials and takes place with immediate effect.

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Emeritus Referees

The purpose of the emeritus grades is to allow officials to retire from the game at the highest referee grade they attained. It may not be used to circumvent any registration, certification or recertification requirements mandated by U.S. Soccer or the State Referee Association.

To become an Emeritus Referee, the official must submit a personal letter of intent to the State Referee Administrator who will then initiate the appropriate paperwork. The official must have held the referee grade in question for a minimum of three years prior to the request. The three years do not have to be consecutive or immediately preceding the request for emeritus status.

For those Emeritus Referees looking to remain active, they must meet the established recertification requirements each year for the level they want to officiate at and adhere to all registration requirements for that grade.

An Emeritus Referee may become reinstated as a referee so long as they meet the established certification requirements and adhere to all registration requirements for that grade.

Referee Grade	Emeritus Referee Grade
6	16
5	15
4	14
3	13



Michigan Referee Committee Standards

- Application for upgrade to 7
 - Register online using GameOfficials and make the required payment of \$65.00
 - Two courses will be scheduled annually in mid-November
- Being grade 7 is a requirement for assignment to the following competitions: State Cup, Midwest Regional League, US Soccer Academy, ECNL, National League.
 - An assigning panel will consider input from a fitness test along with assessments to properly place a referee in the correct level of competition.
 - Referees looking to be approved for a higher level of competition will need to be assessed at the higher level. An assessment fee shall be imposed.
- Referees will share in the responsibility to complete these requirements.