

## Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading Referee

| Criteria   | Referee Grade 8   | Referee Grade 7   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Minimum age   | None  | 17  |
| 2. Experience (minimum cumulative career affiliated outdoor games at designated level) | Not applicable  | Referee: 75<br>Assistant Referee: 25  |
| a. Game level to be counted for advancement  | Not applicable  | U.S. Soccer Federation Games  |
| b. Time in present grade   | Not applicable  | 12 monts as Referee Class 2   |
| 3. Training course requirements  | Successfully complete USSF Referee Training Course 9 or the Referee Bridge Course to upgrade from 9 to 8) | 5 hours of USSF Intermediate Level Training   |
| 4. Written Examination (See Note B)  | 75% minimum score on USSF Referee Exam  | 85% minimum score on USSF Referee Exam  |
| 5. Field Evaluation by currently registered USSF 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 |
| 6. Physical Fitness Test   | Not required  | Required (with passing score-see P.25)  |

### Annual Renewal Requirements

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| In-Service Training   | Five hours during the preceding 12 months | Five hours during the preceding 12 months   |
| Refresher Exam        | Passing Score Required                    | Passing Score 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

| Criteria   | State Referee<br>Grade 6   | State Referee<br>Grade 5   |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Minimum age   | 18   | 19   |
| 2. Experience (minimum cumulative career affiliated outdoor games at designated level) | Referee: 100<br>Assistant Referee: 25  | Referee: 150<br>Assistant Referee: 50  |
| a. Game level to be counted for advancement  | Under-19 Competitive leagues or higher level   | Of the 150 games a minimum of 50 must be on adult Division 1 league games  |
| b. Time in present grade   | 12 months as Referee Grade 7 prior to application  | 12 months as State Grade 6 prior to application  |
| 3. Training course requirements  | 19 hours of State Referee Training   | 7 hours of In-Service State Referee Training   |
| 4. Written Examination (See Note C)  | 75% minimum score on USSF State Referee Exam   | 85% minimum score on USSF State Referee Exam   |
| 5. Field Evaluation by currently registered USSF Assessor (See Note D)                 | Pass two field assessments as referee (one must be on Div. 2 adult or higher) and one as assistant referee in Under-19 competitive league or higher. | Pass two field assessments as referee and one as assistant referee in affiliated top adult Division 1 leagues or higher. |
| 6. Physical Fitness Test   | Required (with passing score-see P. 25)  | Required (with passing score)  |

### Annual Renewal Requirements

|                               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 (See Note D) | One assessment as a referee at Div. 2 adult match or higher | One assessment as referee required.       |
| Physical Fitness Test         | Required (with passing score)                               | Required (with passing score)             |

## Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading National Referee

| Criteria   | National Referee<br>Grade 4  | National Referee<br>Grade 3   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Minimum age   | 23   | 23  |
| 2. Experience (minimum cumulative career outdoor games at designated level) (See Note F) | Referee: 150 (50 must be affiliated Div. 1 adult or higher; 5 must be professional games)<br>Assistant Referee: 100 (5 must be professional games).                    | Same as for grade 4.<br>See Note number 1.                                    |
| a. Game level to be counted for advancement  | Affiliated Adult League or higher  | Same as for grade 4.<br>See Note number 1.                                    |
| b. Time in present grade (See Note G)  | 2 years as Grade 5 prior to application date.<br>Foreign-trained referees must have been a US Soccer Referee for a minimum of one year.                                | Same as for grade 4.<br>See Note number 1.                                    |
| 3. Training course requirements  | Attend and successfully complete the National Referee Certification Session.   | Same as for grade 4.<br>See Note number 1.                                    |
| 4. Written Examination   | Must pass a special National Referee Examination.  | Same as for grade 4.  |
| 5. Field Evaluation (See Notes D, E, F, G,I)   | Pass 3 field assessments as referee and 2 as assistant referee. 2 of the assessments as referee and 1 as assistant referee must be on a professional game <sup>1</sup> | As required for renewal; see notes.   |
| 6. Physical Fitness Test   | Physical Fitness Test successfully completed as per grade standards (page 25)  | Physical Fitness Test successfully completed as per grade standards (page 25) |
| 7. Citizenship   | U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident   | U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident  |

<sup>1</sup> FIFA Referees, FIFA Assistant Referees and national Referees working a minimum of 5 Division 1 Professional league games should see note 1.

## Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading National Referee (Cont.)

### Annual Renewal Requirements

| Criteria                                | National Referee<br>Grade 4   | National Referee<br>Grade 3 |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Training                                | Attend and successfully complete the National Referee Certification Session.  |                             |
| Written Exam                            | Pass National Referee Exam  |                             |
| Physical Fitness Test                   | Annual Physical Fitness Test required (passing score required)  |                             |
| Field Assessment<br>(See Notes E, F, G) | Pass two (2) field assessments as referee (one on professional game) and one (1) as assistant referee on professional game. |                             |

#### Notes and Comments

**Note 1.** Grade 3 referees must meet all published criteria and be recommended for grade level by the U.S. Soccer Referee Technical Committee. Grade 3 designation will be based on game assignment level and field evaluations. Certification and re-certification for grade 3 can only come through the technical committee.

**Note A, Registration and Upgrading:** Registration, annual renewal and requests for upgrading must be made through the appropriate State Referee Administrator. Referees who have registered as grade 8 or higher may not re-register as grade 9.

**Note B, Retaking Exams (grades 9, 8, 7):** If a person does not pass the written examination, the entire examination must be retaken after a minimum waiting period of one month.

**Note C, Retaking Exams (grades 6, 5):** If a person does not pass the written examination, the entire examination must be retaken after a minimum waiting period of three months.

**Note D, Assessments:** For all referees **seeking an upgrade to the next referee level**, the assessments, if required for upgrade, should be completed within a twelve-month time period. No more than two failing assessments can occur within that time period. If a candidate for upgrade fails two assessments in that 12-month period, the referee must start the upgrade procedure over for the next registration cycle, starting with zero assessments.

\*For **annual maintenance** assessments for **State and National** referees: Assessments for National Referee must be by a currently registered USSF National Assessor or an assessor approved by the Director of Assessment and the national office. They must be on games approved by the Referee Committee and played within the dates specified (Dec 1-November 30). The minimum acceptable score is 80. (See note J for additional information.)

The first failure will require only one additional passing assessment (1 for 1). For the second, and any additional failures, the two for one criteria applies. (i.e. two passing assessments needed to offset the failed assessment). Make up assessments must be on the same level game, or higher, as the failed assessment.

National Referee candidates must get their upgrade assessments in the December 1-November 30 time period in the year prior to National camp attendance.

**Note F, Declaration:** State Referees who wish to be assigned to professional games to receive assessments for upgrade to National Referee must complete the appropriate “New Candidate Declaration” form and submit it to the SRA. The SRA will forward the application to the National Office. Forms are accepted between December 1 and December 31 of the year prior to the year the referee will be a candidate. National Referee Candidates must attend a regional professional clinic and pass the physical fitness test to be eligible to receive assignments to professional games.

**Note G, Professional Games:** The Referee Committee may approve other games to count toward the requirement for professional games. Approved games are listed on the referee web page: [www.ussoccer.com](http://www.ussoccer.com)

**Note H, Fast Track:** Candidates for upgrading to National Referee must be acceptable to the US Soccer Referee Committee. Requirements other than age, game level, professional game counts and assessments may be waived at the discretion of the US Soccer Referee Committee.

**Note I, Assessment requirements for FIFA Referees:** Three (3) Professional League Division 1 matches as a referee.

**Assessment requirements for FIFA Assistant Referees:** Three (3) Professional League Division 1 matches as an Assistant Referee.

**Note J, Assessment requirements For National Referees working a minimum of five (5) Division 1 Professional League matches as a Referee:** Two (2) assessments as a Referee on professional league matches and one (1) assessment as an Assistant Referee on an amateur division 1 (or higher) game. You will be asked to list these assessments on your National Camp application.

**Assessment requirements For National Referees working a minimum of five (5) Division 1 Professional League matches as an Assistant Referee:** Two (2) assessments as an Assistant Referee on professional league matches and one (1) assessment as a Referee on an amateur division 1 (or higher) game. You will be asked to list these assessments on your National Camp application.

**All other grade 3 and 4 referees:** See chart on page 23.