



AYSO Referee Certification Requirements

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

Notes to Referee Certification Requirements:

1. Certification at all levels requires (one-time) completion of AYSO's Safe Haven certification and registration as an AYSO volunteer. See www.AYSO.org for details.
2. No minimum score required on written exam.
3. In exceptional cases, certification requirement(s) may be waived through the use of the exemption process (see p. 22).
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", p. 44.
6. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.59), taking the Basic Referee Course and passing the Basic 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 a prerequisite for the Intermediate Referee Course.
7. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.59), taking the Intermediate Referee Course and passing the Intermediate Referee Exam are prerequisites for the Advanced Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Intermediate Referee certification is a requirement for Advanced Referee certification, but is not a prerequisite for the Advanced Referee Course.
8. As indicated in the Referee Training Matrix (p.59), taking the Advanced Referee Course and passing the Advanced Referee Exam are prerequisites for the National Referee Course when it is being taken to satisfy an upgrade requirement (the usual case). Advanced Referee certification is a requirement for National Referee certification, but is not a prerequisite for the National Referee Course.
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 and 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 ADA for Advanced Referee candidates, SRA or SDA 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 U-16 matches for U-19 matches if U-19 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, he must notify the upgrade candidate of the reason in writing within the 30-day period.
13. The assessor for an Advanced Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Area Director of Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Area in which the candidate is registered; assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's ADA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Area in



which the candidate is registered. The assessor for a National Referee upgrade assessment will be assigned by the candidate's Section Director of Assessment (or designee) if the assessment will take place within the Section in which the candidate is registered; assessor assignment will be coordinated with the candidate's SDA (or designee) if the assessment will take place outside the Section in which the candidate is registered.