

# 2026 Course Eligibility & Requirements

**U.S. Soccer Referee Program** 

Updated June 23rd, 2025

U.S. REFEREEING WAY



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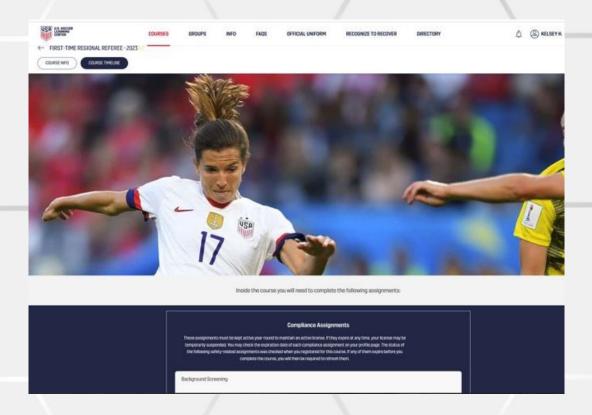


### **Important Reminder**

The following information is a general outline of the eligibility and certification / recertification requirements, and additional information related to license acquisition.

For details on current requirements for each course, please see the **Course Timeline** in the **Learning Center** PRIOR to enrolling.

For requirements denoted with (†) a request must be sent to referee@ussoccer.org to override automatic Learning Center course eligibility requirements.



This document will be updated as necessary, and is currently correct as of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.





## 2026 Referee Pathway

**Eligibility & General Requirements** 





### REFEREE PATHWAY



REFEREE	FIFA	ASSISTANT REFEREE
REFEREE	PROFESSIONAL	ASSISTANT REFEREE
REFEREE	NATIONAL	ASSISTANT REFEREE
	REGIONAL	
	REFEREE	



### 2026 Referee Pathway Course Summary

#### **REFEREE**

Course		Min. Age	Requirements / Previous Certification (see individual course page for detailed requirements)	Delivery	Online Duration	In-person Duration
Digital	First-time	17	N/A	Online	3 hours	N/A
Referee	Bridge	13	Digital Referee license in previous year	Online	1.5 hours	N/A
	First-time		N/A	Hybrid	5 hours	2-3 hours
Referee	FIISCULLIE	13	N/A	In-person**	1hour	5-6 hours
	Recert.	Referee license within previous three (3) years		Online <b>OR</b> in-person **	5 hours	6-8 hours

Course		Min. Requirements / Previous Certification Age (see individual course page for detailed requirements)  Delivery  Online Duration		In-person Duration		
- Emoritus	Regional	/.E	Any combination of Regional Referee or Regional Emeritus licenses for at least three (3) cumulative years	Online	1 hour	N/A
Emeritus	National	45	Any combination of National Match Official, PRO, FIFA, or National Emeritus licenses for at least three (3) cumulative years	Online	1 hour	N/A

<sup>\*\*</sup> In-person course materials developed by U.S. Soccer will become progressively available from July 2025, providing SRCs the ability to host courses in-person, online and a combination of both



### 2026 Referee Pathway Course Summary

#### **REGIONAL**

Course Min. Requirements / Previous Certification (see individual course page for detailed requirements)		Delivery	Online Duration	In-person Duration		
	Flori Por		Referee license in each of the previous two (2) years (unless meets	Hybrid	5 hours	2-3 hours
First-time Regional	10	requirements for former professional player or coach pathway)  Game count, match evaluations, fitness test	In-person**	1 hour	6-8 hours	
Referee	Recert.	18	Referee license in each of the previous two (2) years (unless meets requirements for former professional player or coach pathway)  • Game count, match evaluations, fitness test	Online <b>OR</b> in-person **	5 hours	6-8 hours

#### **NATIONAL**

Course Min. Requirements / Previous Certification (see individual course page for detailed requirements)		Delivery	Online Duration	In-person Duration		
National Referee	First-Time	21	Application process, selected by U.S. Soccer Regional license in each of the previous two (2) years Game count, match evaluations, fitness test	Online <b>AND</b> Camp	TBC	Four (4) days
or Assistant	Recert.	21	Application process, selected by U.S. Soccer National license or higher in previous year Game count, match evaluations, fitness test	Online <b>AND</b> Camp	TBC	Four (4) days

<sup>\*\*</sup> In-person course materials developed by U.S. Soccer will become progressively available from July 2025, providing SRCs the ability to host courses in-person, online and a combination of both



### **2026 Referee Pathway Course Summary**

#### **PROFESSIONAL**

#### **FIFA**

Course	Requirements / Previous Certification (see individual course page for detailed requirements)	Delivery	Online Duration	In-person Duration
PRO Referee, Assistant, or VMO	Contract with PRO	N/A	N/A	N/A
FIFA Referee, Assistant, or VMO	Nominated by the U.S. Soccer Referee Committee	N/A	N/A	N/A



### **Course Details**





### **First-Time Digital Referee**

Age	13 years of age or older		
Enrollment	Registration		
Previous Certification Experience	N/A		
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening (18 yrs. and older) SafeSport training (18 yrs. and older) Safe and Healthy Playing Environments		
Training	Online Digital Referee Course Online Laws of the Game Update		
Fitness Test	N/A		
Practical Assignments	N/A		

No changes from 2025



### **Digital Referee Bridge Course**

Age	13 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a Digital Referee license during the previous registration year
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening (18 yrs. and older) SafeSport training (18 yrs. and older) Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online Digital Transition Course Online Laws of the Game Update In-person or virtual practical training
Fitness Test	N/A
Practical Assignments	N/A

No changes from 2025



### **First-Time Referee**

Age	13 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	N/A
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening (18 yrs. and older) SafeSport training (18 yrs. and older) Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online and/or In-person Referee Modules Online Laws of the Game Update In-person or virtual practical training
Fitness Test	N/A
Practical Assignments	N/A

#### 2026 Changes

- Course materials updated
- Introduction of in-person delivery options with U.S. Refereeing Way materials
- Provision of U.S. Refereeing Way practical training materials



### **Referee Recertification**

Age	13 years of age or older	
Enrollment	Registration	
Previous Certification Experience  Must have held at least one (1) Referee license during to three (3) registration years;  OR Held a Regional Referee license in the previous registration.		
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening (18 yrs. and older) SafeSport training (18 yrs. and older) Safe and Healthy Playing Environments	
Training	Online Referee Recertification Course Online Laws of the Game Update	
Fitness Test	N/A	
Practical Assignments	N/A	

#### 2026 Changes

- Course materials updated
- Introduction of in-person delivery options with U.S. Refereeing Way materials
- Provision of U.S. Refereeing Way practical training materials (optional sessions)



### **Regional Emeritus Referee**

Age	45 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a Regional Referee or Regional Emeritus licenses for at least three (3) registration years
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online Emeritus Course Online Laws of the Game Update
Fitness Test	N/A
Practical Assignments	N/A

No changes from 2025



### **National Emeritus Referee**

Age	45 years of age or older	
Enrollment	Registration	
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a National Referee, National Assistant Referee, PRO, FIFA, or National Emeritus licenses for at least three (3) registration years	
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments	
Training	Online Emeritus Course Online Laws of the Game Update	
Fitness Test	N/A	
Practical Assignments	N/A	

No changes from 2025



### **First-Time Regional Referee**

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Drovious Cortification Experience	Must have held a Referee license for each of the two (2) previous registration years OR
Previous Certification Experience	Only one (1) previous license required for former players in professional leagues, or coaches with a "C" license or higher (†)
Previous Game Experience	25 games as a Referee AND 15 games as an Assistant Referee at the adult amateur level as a U.S. Soccer match official (requirement not necessary for players/coaches as listed above)
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online or In-person Regional Referee training Online Laws of the Game Update In-person practical training
Fitness Test	FIFA Fitness Test (Sprints & Interval)  Male - Women's Category 1 Female - Women's Category 3  Must be completed within the current or previous registration year
Evaluations	Three (3) evaluations as a referee within the previous registration year – see slide 44 for scoring requirements (2025 registration year: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025):  Evaluations to be performed on matches at the adult amateur level (or above), with no more than one (1) evaluation allowed at the highest youth level (U18 or U19) (2 x 45-minute halves)

#### 2026 Changes

- Course materials updated
- Clarification that evaluations are as a referee (not an assistant referee), and confirmation of scoring requirements
- Introduction of in-person delivery options with U.S. Refereeing Way materials
- Provision of U.S. Refereeing Way practical training materials



### **Regional Referee Recertification**

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least one (1) Regional Referee license in the previous three (3) registration years OR Must have held a National Referee or National Assistant Referee license in their career
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online or In-Person Regional Referee Recertifying training Online Laws of the Game Update In-person or virtual practical training
Fitness Test	FIFA Fitness Test (sprints & interval)  Male - Women's Category 1 Female - Women's Category 3  Must be completed within the current or previous registration year
Evaluations	Two (2) evaluations as a referee within the previous registration year – see slide 44 for scoring requirements (2025 registration year: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025):  Evaluations to be performed on matches at the adult amateur level (or above), with no more than one (1) evaluation allowed at the highest youth level (U18 or U19) (2 x 45-minute halves)

#### 2026 Changes

- Course materials updated
- Clarification that evaluations are as a referee (not an assistant referee), and confirmation of scoring requirements
- Introduction of in-person delivery options with U.S. Refereeing Way materials
- Provision of U.S. Refereeing Way practical training materials (optional sessions)



### First-Time National Referee / Assistant

Age	21 years of age or older
Enrollment	Application Required Selected by U.S. Soccer National Selection Committee
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a Regional Referee license for each of the two (2) previous registration years
Previous Game Experience	65 games at the adult amateur or higher level (professional or international): 40 games as a Referee 25 games as an Assistant Referee
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online National Match Official training Online Laws of the Game Update Attend and successfully complete in-person National Camp
Fitness Test	FIFA Fitness Test (at Camp) - role specific (sprints & interval)  Male - Men's Category 1 Female - Women's Category 1
Evaluations	Minimum of three (3) National evaluations as either Referee or Assistant Referee, relevant to the license role applying for Evaluations must be completed by three (3) different National Referee Coaches Evaluation period from July 1st, 2024 through to deadline for National applications

#### 2026 Changes

• Adjustment of evaluation period to provide more time for officials to acquire evaluations



### **National Referee / Assistant Recertification**

Age	Age 21 years of age or older	
Enrollment Application Required Selected by U.S. Soccer National Selection Committee		
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a National Match Official license or higher in the previous registration year	
Previous Game Experience	12 games in selected role at the adult amateur or higher level (professional or international) in the previous registration year (Exemptions may apply on application due to illness, injury, military service, pregnancy)	
Safety & Compliance Safe and Healthy Playing Environments		
Online National Match Official recertification training  Training Online Laws of the Game Update Attend and successfully complete in-person National Camp		
Fitness Test  FIFA Fitness Test (at Camp) - role specific (sprints & interval)  Male - Men's Category 1  Female - Women's Category 1		
Evaluations	Minimum of three (3) National evaluations as either Referee or Assistant Referee, relevant to the license role applying for Evaluations must be completed by three (3) different National Referee Coaches Evaluation period from July 1st, 2024 through to deadline for National applications	

#### 2026 Changes

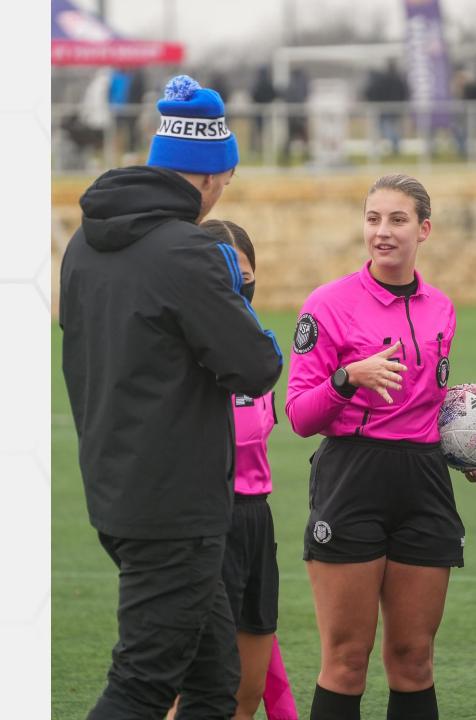
- Clarification of game count being required on an annual basis
- Adjustment of evaluation period to provide more time for officials to acquire evaluations





## 2026 Referee Coach Pathway

**Eligibility & General Requirements** 





### REFEREE COACH PATHWAY



### **NATIONAL REFEREE COACH**

### REFEREE COACH

MENTOR +

**MENTOR** 



### **New Coaching Pathway Goals**



Coaches and Mentors are the foundation of a strong refereeing program

- Increase the number of mentors/mentor+ in the program
- Improved training for our educators, at all levels
- Provide credible and experienced coaches to develop our referees serving the growing professional leagues
- Retain referees with top experience to continue to give back to the game as coaches



# New Referee Coach Pathway is a Progressive Model

Football Understanding

**Evaluations** 

5-Step Process

**Practical Training Sessions** 

**Basics** 

**Designing & Leading** 

**Technical Presentations** 

**PEACE Model** 

**Leading Video Analysis** 

**Performance Observation/Insights** 

**Development & Guidance** 

**Observation Skills Leveled Up** 

**Mentor** 

**Mentor+** 

**Referee Coach** 

**National** 



### **Coaching Pathway Course Summary**

#### **MENTOR**

Course		Min. Age			In-person Duration	
Referee	First-time	10	Two (2) years cumulative on-field experience as a certified referee	Online <b>OR</b> in-person	3 hours	3 hours
Mentor	(2027) Recert.	18	Mentor license within previous two (2) years <b>OR</b> Mentor+or Referee Coach license within previous two (2) years	Online <b>OR</b> in-person	TBC	TBC

#### **MENTOR +**

Course		Min. Age	Requirements / Previous Certification (see individual course page for details requirements)	Delivery	Online Duration	In-person Duration
First-time Referee			Mentor license within previous two (2) years  OR Referee Coach license within previous (2) years  OR a FIFA, PRO, or National Match Official license during their career	Online (2026)	3.5 hours coursework	N/A
		10		Hybrid (2027)	60 min homework + 3.5 hours coursework	4-6 hours
Mentor +		18	ONATH A, TNO, OF NACIONAL PIACOT OTHERANICONSCI AUTING CHOIL OUT OUT	In-person (2027) **	60 min homework	8 hours
	(2027) Recert.		Mentor+license within previous two (2) years OR Referee Coach license in previous year	Online <b>OR</b> in-person	TBC	TBC

<sup>•</sup> All Mentors with licenses in 2024 or 2025 are eligible and encouraged to complete the new Mentor+ course for 2026 (abridged online version), with only First-Time Mentors required to complete the new Mentor course. Recertification courses for the new Mentor and Mentor+ levels will return for the 2027 registration year

<sup>\*\*</sup> In-person course materials developed by U.S. Soccer will become progressively available from July 2025, providing SRCs the ability to host courses in-person, online and a combination of both



### **Coaching Pathway Course Summary**

#### **REFEREE COACH**

		Online Duration	In-person Duration			
Referee Coach	First-time	21	Letter of recommendation required from member of home SRC or a National Referee Coach for registration to be valid; <b>AND</b> Mentor+license for previous two (2) years (Mentor in 2024 & 2025)  OR FIFA, PRO, or National Match Official license within current or previous two (2) years Note: FIFA, PRO, NMO who elect to start at Mentor+only require one year for eligibility	Online <b>AND</b> Course	8 hours	Four (4) days
	Recert.**		Referee Coach or National Referee Coach license within the previous two (2) years • Practical Assignments: Five (5) match evaluations	Online	TBC	N/A

#### **NATIONAL REFEREE COACH**

Course		Min. Age			In-person Duration	
National Referee Coach	First-time	25	Application process, selected by U.S. Soccer; Referee Coach for previous (3) years, AND three (3) years as a National Match Official; OR Provisional Pathway-FIFA or PRO license within current or previous three (3) years. • Practical Assignments: Seven (7) match evaluations	Online <b>AND</b> Camp	TBC	Four (4) days
	Recert.		Selected by U.S. Soccer; National Referee Coach in previous year • Practical Assignments: Seven (7) match evaluations	Online <b>AND</b> Camp	TBC	Four (4) days

<sup>\*\*</sup> Referee Coach recertification course are planned to be made available in Fall 2025



### **Course Details**





### **First-Time Referee Mentor**

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have at least two (2) years of cumulative on-field experience as a certified referee
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online Referee Mentor training Online Laws of the Game Update
Practical Assignments	N/A

#### 2026 Changes

• New course level - for new entrants to the Referee Coaching pathway



### Referee Mentor Recertification (2027)

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least: One (1) Referee Mentor license within the two (2) previous registration years; OR Mentor+ or Referee Coach license within the two (2) previous registration years
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online or In-person Referee Mentor recertification training Online Laws of the Game Update
Practical Assignments	N/A

Course to become available for 2027 registration year, following introduction of new Mentor course in 2026



### First-Time Referee Mentor+

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least: Mentor license within previous two (2) years; OR Referee Coach license within previous (2) years; OR a FIFA, PRO, or National Match Official license during their career
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online Referee Mentor+ training ( <i>In-person option for 2027</i> ) Online Laws of the Game Update
Practical Assignments	N/A

#### 2026 Changes

- New course for 2026, for those with an existing Mentor license in 2024 or 2025, replacing previous Mentor certification
- For 2026, existing Mentors will only be required to complete abridged online training to certify



### Referee Mentor + Recertification (2027)

Age	18 years of age or older
Enrollment	Registration
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least: One (1) Referee Mentor+ license within the two (2) previous registration years; OR Referee Coach license during the previous registration year
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
Training	Online or In-person Referee Mentor+ recertification training Online Laws of the Game Update
Practical Assignments	N/A

#### New recertification for new course

Course to become available for 2027 registration year, following introduction of new Mentor+ course in 2026



### **First-Time Referee Coach**

Age	21 years of age or older		
Enrollment	Registration Note: Letter of recommendation required from member of home SRC or a National Referee Coach for registration to be valid		
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least: Referee Mentor+ license for each of the previous two (2) registration years (Mentor license in 2024 & 2025); OR One (1) FIFA, PRO, or National Match Official license within the current or previous two (2) registration years (no Mentor or Mentor+ license required) Note: FIFA/PRO/NMOs who start at Mentor+ only require one (1) year for eligibility (Future Implementation: Successful passing of Laws of the Game exam)		
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments		
Training	Online Referee Coach training Online Laws of the Game Update In-person Referee Coach course - four (4) days		
Practical Assignments In-course assessments requiring a passing grade			

#### 2026 Changes

- Course completely revised, focused and streamlined
- New requirement to receive letter of recommendation from member of home SRC or a National Referee Coach
- New entry pathway option for current or recently retired FIFA/PRO/National match officials
  - Defined in-person course length and requirement for in-course assessments requiring a passing grade



### **Referee Coach Recertification**

Age	21 years of age or older  Registration		
Enrollment			
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held at least: One (1) Referee Coach license or one (1) National Referee Coach license within the previous two (2) registration years		
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments		
Training	Online Referee Coach recertification training Online Laws of the Game Update  Five (5) evaluations of match official performance including post- game reflection with the referee team Must be completed by the end of the registration year		
Practical Assignments			

#### 2026 Changes

 Reduced length of time for previous certification experience from three (3) years to two (2) due to re-write of coaching pathway courses



### **First-Time National Referee Coach**

Age	25 years of age or older			
Enrollment	Application required → Selected by U.S. Soccer			
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held: Referee Coach license for each of the three (3) previous registration years; AND National Match Official license for three (3) cumulative registration years  Provisional National Referee Coach Must have held at least one (1) FIFA or PRO license within the current or previous three (3) registration years			
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments			
Training	Online course Online Laws of the Game Update U.S. Soccer National Referee Coach Camp			
Practical Assignments	Seven (7) evaluations of match official performance including post-game reflection with the referee team  Must be completed by the end of the registration year			

#### 2026 Changes

- Increased requirement for number of years as a Referee Coach, previously two (2) years
- Additional requirement to have been a National match official for three (3) years not applicable to existing license holders
- Additional option of Provisional National Referee Coach for current or recently retired FIFA/PRO match officials



### **National Referee Coach Recertification**

Age 25 years of age or older			
Enrollment	Selected by U.S. Soccer		
Previous Certification Experience	Must have held a National Referee Coach license during the previous registration year		
Safety & Compliance	Background Screening SafeSport training Safe and Healthy Playing Environments  Online course Online Laws of the Game Update U.S. Soccer National Referee Coach Camp* (* National Referee Coaches may not miss two consecutive years of camp attendance)		
Training			
Practical Assignments	Seven (7) evaluations of match official performance including post-game reflection with the referee team  Must be completed by the end of the registration year		

#### 2026 Changes

- Addition of requirement for camp attendance
- Removed practical assignments of Leading Video Analysis and Practical Training Exercise





# Additional Topics

Referee Badges
Course Instructors
Course Hosting Requirements
Course Fees
Course Materials
Evaluations





### Referee Badges

 Upon completion of a referee course, referees will be provided with a badge from their SRC for their respective level (with the exception of National courses run by U.S. Soccer)



 Anyone who is under the age of 18 at the time of completing a course will receive a green badge, which is to be worn for entirety of that registration year.





### **Course Instructors**

It is recommended that for all in-person courses where instructors are assigned by SRCs, that there should be a ratio of a minimum of one instructor for every 12 participants (1:12). Therefore, for 13-24 participants, two instructors should be present.

Referee Pathway	Minimum Instructor Level	Coach Appointment
Referee	Mentor+ (2024/25 Mentor)	Organizing SRC
Regional Referee	Referee Coach	Organizing SRC

Coaching Pathway	Minimum Instructor Level	Coach Appointment
Mentor	Mentor+ (2024/25 Mentor)	Organizing SRC
Mentor+	Referee Coach (minimum two recommended)	Organizing SRC

Referee Coach course instructors must be National Referee Coaches and will be appointed by U.S. Soccer. A minimum of two instructors must be present, with a ratio of one for every 6 participants (1:6).

National Match Official and National Referee Coach courses are managed directly by U.S. Soccer.



### Course Hosting Requirements - Mentor+

- Recommended to have two or more instructors
  - One instructor must be of Referee Coach level
- Coordination and hosting requirements shall be in line with the guidelines contained within the Implementor Playbook (coming soon). Requirements include the provision of:
  - Classroom space for educational sessions with AV equipment (only required for a full in-person course)
  - Fields, equipment, players, and referees for practical sessions
  - Concurrent matches for mentoring (e.g. tournament)
    - One instructor may observe multiple matches to provide feedback to candidates
    - Exercise only requires observation of one half (between 20-45 mins)
    - Two candidates may observe the same half of one match



### Course Hosting Requirements - FT Referee Coach

- SRCs who wish to host a First-Time Referee Coach Course should submit their request using the <u>Event Support Application Form</u>, no less than 45 days prior to the event.
- A representative from the Refereeing Department will follow up with the organizing SRC for additional hosting requirements, in line with the guidelines contained within the Implementor Playbook (coming soon).
- Hosting requirements include the provision of:
  - Classroom space for educational sessions with AV equipment
  - Fields, equipment, players, and referees for practical sessions
  - Access to competition matches for evaluations
- Once approved, the organizing SRC shall work with the assigned instructors to confirm the course schedule and structure.



### **Course Fees**

For programs managed by SRCs, course fees will be set by each individual SRC (unless noted below). In addition, the following U.S. Soccer surcharges apply:

Referee Pathway	Surcharge	
Digital Referee	\$20.00 (+ flat SRC course fee of \$20.00)	
Digital Referee Bridge	\$20.00	
Referee	\$20.00	
Emeritus (Regional/National)	\$37.50	
Regional Referee	\$37.50	
National Referee or Assistant	\$100.00 (full course fee)	
PRO Referee or Assistant	\$100.00 (full course fee)	
FIFA Referee or Assistant	N/A	

Coaching Pathway	Surcharge		
Mentor	\$22.50		
Mentor +	\$22.50		
Referee Coach	\$37.50		
National Referee Coach	\$100.00 (full course fee)		

For this year, there are now two forms of payment accepted: credit card and ACH.

Transaction fees incurred by the user:

- Credit Card: approximately 3%
- ACH: 0.8% (to a maximum of \$5.00)



### **Course Materials - Training Modules**

- For 2026, courses conducted in the U.S. Soccer Learning Center (with the exception of the Digital Referee course), will have offline (in-person) modules available. SRCs will have the flexibility to offer the technical portion of the courses either online, in-person, or through a combination of both.
- Updates will be sent to the SRCs as the in-person modules become available, with the materials to be housed in the <u>State Resources</u> <u>Folder</u>.



### Course Materials - Practical Training

- For the first time in 2026, U.S. Soccer will make practical training sessions available which can be used as part of the course requirements.
- Practical training sessions cover several different types of situations. Sessions are developed for beginner, intermediate and advanced level referees.
- SRCs will be notified as the practical training sessions are made available, with the materials to be housed in the <u>State Resources</u> <u>Folder</u>.



### **Regional Evaluations**

- Must be conducted by a Referee Coach or National Referee Coach
- Only Adult Amateur matches (or above), or U18/U19 matches played with 45-minute halves may be utilized (high school and college matches are not yet able to be utilized)
- Although candidates for First-Time or Recertifying Regional Referees may use one evaluation on an U18/U19 match, they may use all adult games to satisfy the evaluation requirements for certification.
- SRCs cannot mandate that candidates use all adult games to satisfy the evaluation requirements for certification.
- Fees for referee coach evaluations are set by the SRC
- For the 2026 registration year, all Regional evaluations must be submitted in U.S. Soccer's RefEval system launch information coming soon!



### **Regional Evaluation Scoring**

- First-Time: Three games with the final score average at 8.0 or above.
- Recertification: Two games with the final score average at 8.0 or above.
- If the required average is not reached, remove the evaluation with the lowest score, and replace it with the final score from an additional match to achieve a final score average at 8.0 or above.
- For the purpose of certification, a second additional match is not permitted.

Example for a First-Time Regional

First-Time	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Match 4	Outcome
Scenario 1	8.3	8.0	8.1	-	Upgrade (8.13)
Scenario 2	8.2	<del>7.8</del>	7.9	8.1	Upgrade (8.06)
Scenario 3	8.2	7.7	7.7	8.1	Upgrade (8.0)
Scenario 4	8.0	7.7	7.8	8.1	Not upgrade (7.96)



### **National Evaluations - Amateur Matches**

All National evaluations on amateur matches must be conducted by a U.S. Soccer National Referee Coach.

Match officials may utilize the following adult pre-professional competitions for the purpose of National evaluations, either for maintenance or upgrade:

- National Amateur Leagues (e.g. USL2, USL Academy U20, NPSL, USSSA, UWS, WPSL)
- USASA National & Regional competitions
- Local state adult leagues/competitions

Match officials may request an evaluation on one of the above listed matches by contacting their SRC, who will advise process for payment. Referees are **not** to make payment directly to a National Referee Coach, other than the scenarios listed on the following page (PRO matches).

The cost of a National evaluation is set at \$200.00, with the cost to cover the evaluation for all match officials assigned to the match.

The National evaluations will need to be submitted in U.S. Soccer's RefEval system – launch information coming soon!



### **National Evaluations - PRO Matches**

Matches in the following leagues are eligible for submission to meet National Match Official evaluation requirements, when completed on the PRO Assessment Form by a PRO Assessor:

NWSL, USL Super League, USL Championship, USL League One

Additionally, match officials may request for a National evaluation completed on the RefEval system for MLS Next Pro or USL Jägermeister Cup match, where a PRO observation would ordinarily be all that is completed.

On these matches, where a National Referee Coach is assigned as a PRO Observer or PRO Assistant Referee Coach, a match official may contact them directly to enquire on their availability to complete a National evaluation. When an evaluation is requested, all four match officials will be evaluated.

The coordinating match official must make payment to the NRC prior to the game. If the fee is not received prior to the game, no evaluation will be completed.

• Fee when NRC is performing an official observation for PRO \$100.00

• Fee when NRC is NOT performing an official observation \$200.00

This is the <u>only</u>occasion in which payment for an evaluation may be made directly to a National Referee Coach by a match official.



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