

## Soccer Referee Training: Frequently Asked Questions

### How old do I have to be to become a referee?

The Maryland State Instructional Staff requires that students be at least 13 years old before the end of the class. Children younger than that are not mature enough to deal with adult coaches and spectators effectively, nor are they capable of accepting responsibility for player safety

### Do I need to pre-register to attend the course?

You **MUST** pre-register by registering with USSF. Go to Maryland Referee [http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page\\_id=21](http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page_id=21), choose the class, and follow that link to create an account. You will be asked for credit card payment – which will not be billed until you take first class.

Also, there are now on-line Preview materials which will be assigned as homework before each session, including the first.

### How much does it cost to become a referee?

1. When you register on-line for the class you are paying USSF registration fee - **\$40.00**. Credit card is required.
2. At the 1<sup>st</sup> session you must pay the Instructional Fee of **\$30.00**. This may be paid by cash or check.
3. Basic uniform kits are available from several suppliers, though the cost may vary. Typically about \$80.00.
4. Local associations may also have a membership or assigning fee. This is **separate from** the registration fee.

**Note:** WMSOA membership is \$20.00 (youth) and \$25.00 (adults); may be paid at the last class, Field Day, or other time. It is a separate check payable to WMSOA.

### What do I need to bring to class?

Bring note taking materials. A Law Book – rules – and other materials will be provided. Before the first class you will receive an e-mail containing additional information for the class, including links to pre-view videos.

### When are entry-level referee courses held?

Courses convene both Spring and Fall: January-February and July-August. Courses are on Maryland Referee website when scheduled.

## How long does it take to become a referee?

The Grade 8 referee course is 16 hours of instruction plus testing (~2 hours). This may be one weekend or spread over several weeks. There will be some homework assigned. Some organizations also hold a practical Field Day.

## Do I have to attend all classes? What if I miss a session?

**Yes!** Students must attend all 16 hours of instruction covering the 17 Laws, and topics designed to teach you the basics of refereeing. It may be possible to attend a session elsewhere with the permission of both Lead Instructors, but the class must be teaching the same material, but we **cannot** certify you as a Referee if you do not attend all sessions

## What is the test like?

The test is 50 questions True/False and Multiple Choice, plus 5 short answer questions. The passing score is 75%.

**Note:** If you get **testing accommodations** in school, you must notify the lead instructor **before** the class starts.

## How and when do I register with USSF?

During the initial class registration you provide all the information. At the completion of class, the Lead Instructor will certify completion on-line and the Maryland Referee Administrator register you with United States Soccer. Your registration is good in any state.

## How do I get assigned to referee games?

Assignor info: [http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page\\_id=12](http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page_id=12). You can accept games from any Assignor listed on this web-site.

You and the Assignor(s) communicate as to schedule and availability. Most areas have an association and assignor for local leagues with their own procedures. Ask the Assignor(s) in your area.

*Carroll County Assignor: Ross Burbage* [reburbage@verizon.net](mailto:reburbage@verizon.net) *Web-site:*  
<http://www.oldlinereferees.org/>

*Frederick/Hagerstown Assignor: Mike Truax* [mtruax@myactv.net](mailto:mtruax@myactv.net) *WMSOA web-site:*  
<http://www.wmsoa.net/>

## Can I use my parents' e-mail?

No, for game assignments, you must have your own e-mail address. You must be responsible enough to accept assignments. **Parents:** if you want to monitor/maintain control all other e-mail, the association will ensure you also

receive those communications. We also ensure that e-mail is not distributed beyond the instructor, association secretary, and assignor, and for security reasons students are always BCC'd in broadcast e-mail.

### **How do I get paid when I referee games? How much?**

It depends. Many organizations publish a procedures handbook with league rules, pay scale, and other pertinent information. Some leagues, such as FCYSL, pay referees on the field; others pay through WMSOA and you will be paid at the end of each season. Rates vary but it is possible to do multiple games in a day and be paid \$60-\$90.00.

### **Do I have to have the full referee uniform?**

Yes, you must have a uniform before accepting game assignments. Uniform consists of a jersey, shorts, and socks. As a minimum you must have the primary jersey – gold with black pinstripes – black referee shorts, and black referee socks. You may not substitute your team shorts or other non-regulation uniform items. Your shoes/cleats should be **predominantly black**.

### **Are there other requirements to be a referee?**

Every year you must **re-certify** with USSF, which entails rules training, which may be a single session or several separate sessions **totaling 5 hours**, and then take a recertification test. In Maryland there is no cost for the clinic(s), but the annual registration fee with USSF is \$45.00.

All adults must also obtain a Risk Assessment check; this is now an automatic part of class registration.

### **What about High School and Indoor Soccer games?**

This course is **only for USSF** referee registration; it is **NOT** high school, college, futsal, or indoor soccer. Those organizations have different rules and administrative procedures; contact the organization, league, or facility for their requirements for these games.