

## Recertification

Updated January 2011

After you have taken the **Entry-Level Referee course**, Grade 8, Grade 9 (Recreational), or STAR and gotten your USSF Badge, what next? Obviously, you do games, get experience, and begin to learn “*real refereeing*.” But your original badge is only good for a year, and then you need to demonstrate that you still know the rules.

### ***What is recertification?***

Recertification is an annual process of instruction and examination to maintain your knowledge of the Laws of the Game, FIFA Interpretations, and USSF Guidance to referees.

### ***Who needs to recertify?***

USSF requires all referees recertify and register every year. These requirements are set out in the Referee Administrative Handbook (~ page 20). Copies of this manual are normally available through the state referee committee and on line.

### ***What are the annual requirements for Grade 8 Referees?***

**5 hours** of in-service training and passing **score of 75%** on a refresher exam.

For Grade 7 and above, please see the manual, but also include formal on-field assessments and a physical fitness test.

### ***What if I failed to recertify last year? Do I have to retake the whole Entry Class?***

For Grade 8s who miss 1-2 consecutive years of registration can be re-registered as a grade 8 after completing a Referee Re-certification clinic.

Grade 7s will revert to Grade 8 for recertification as above, but may upgrade when they have completed all the requirements for the previously held grade (See USSF Referee Administrative Handbook).

### ***How do I get the in-service training?***

In Maryland the State Referee Committee by way of the State Director of Instruction, organizes in service clinics in many most areas.

Currently for Grade 8 referees there are one-time annual sessions of six hours - including testing and administrative time - or you may monthly sessions of approximately two hours each, available in some areas (Columbia, Frederick, and Westminster). Attendance at either type of clinic is recorded and tracked.

If you attend monthly clinics you need to attend three sessions, or there are Major League Soccer “Referee Days” (~ 3 per year) which can count as one hour towards recertification, so two monthly clinics and one Referee Day would meet the 5 hour requirement. You may also attend monthly sessions in any or several of the areas.

Use this link for Maryland Recertification events:

<http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/>

### ***What does it cost to attend clinics and recertify with USSF?***

As of January 2011, Maryland does not charge for attending a clinic.

However, there is a charge to re-register with USSF. Registration for **Grade 7 is \$45.00; Grade 8 is \$40.00**. You may pay on-line; the SRA/SDI sends out the procedure each year. Print out on-line receipt and bring to recertification clinic and test. You may also pay by check or cash during registration after the exam.

### ***What is on the refresher test?***

The refresher test is a **100 question** Grade 7 & 8 recertification exam which is more difficult than the entry exam, but more game oriented. Passing is 75%. You will also be **required** to list the 10 major fouls, 8 minor fouls, 7 cautions, 3 cautions to substitutes, and 7 send-offs on the back of your answer sheet.

### ***Is there anything else I need to reregister with USSF?***

Yes. You need to fill-out a USSF registration form with your personal information. You should bring this form or a completed facsimile with you to the exam. If you do not have this form, you can download one from the USSF website (<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Registration/Registration-Home.aspx>), or the clinic staff will also have forms (but then you have to fill it out neatly by hand).

One item on the registration form is for experience; you should get a **“game count”** from your game log or whatever method you use to track game assignments. This is available thru your Arbiter account, if your assignor/association uses Arbiter.

And the registration has to be accompanied by the registration fee – check or cash – or the USSF on-line receipt. The Maryland Express soccer e-mail system will provide current year instructions before the start of the reregistration period.

### ***Where can I find study materials before a recertification test?***

First of course, you have the Laws of the Game from your original Grade 8 class or recertification last year, but it's also available on line at USSF and FIFA.

USSF also publishes Advice to Referees, Q&A, Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees, Guide to Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees, and Fourth Officials, and numerous memoranda available on-line at USSF. <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Zone-1.aspx>

### ***Do I need to study the Laws of the Game before the test?***

Only if you want to **PASS**. You need to study the LOTG, Advice to Referees, and Interpretation of the Laws for the exam.

### ***What about a new USSF referee badge?***

You should receive a new badge and a copy of the Laws of the Game when you register and pay at the end of the clinic. Before the clinic, you may want to go here for LotG: <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx>

If during the year you lose your referee badge, new badges are available at: <http://friinc.onet.net/catalog/login3.html> . To do this you will need your USSF ID number. Velcro disks for badges are available thru referee equipment dealers.

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### Recertification Process

You must recertify with USSF every year. USSF requires 5 hours of in-service training every year. You need to attend all 5-6 hours of the clinic.

These clinics are appropriate to Referee Grades 7, 8, and 9. Grade 12 Assistant Referees may attend for credit; however, the Clinics arranged through WAGS and NCSL for Grade 12s **are more appropriate**.

Grades 9 and 12 are different exams than 7 and 8. Inform the lead instructor if you need the G9 or G12 exam.

Maryland Referee Committee and USSF Region I have standardized most of the presentations and topics for in-service training; these are considered important information and updates for referees.

Sitting in on Grade 8 Entry-Level classes is not sufficient to count as training hours. However, the all Grade 8 course material is available on-line at US Soccer for study.

Recertification clinics in Maryland are 6 hours long. You should pre-register with the lead instructor listed on the Maryland Referee website. Please do not insist on a response, pre-registration is for numbers/planning purposes. "Google" and the internet are your best friends for general public information (addresses, directions, etc.), not the lead instructor.

Currently in Maryland there is no cost for the clinic. However, annual registration fee with USSF is currently \$40.00 for Grades 8 and 9, \$45.00 for Grade 7.

You may pay on-line; the SRA send out an e-mail with those instructions every year. Using this method, you will have to print out a copy of the on-line receipt to give to the registrar at recert.

You also may pay by **cash or check** at when registering with USSF at the end of the clinic.

Checks are payable to **MSR**. You may put multiple referees on one check.

If you pay by cash, you need to bring **correct change**.

At every recertification clinic, there will be the USSF Recertification exam given: 100 question multiple choice and true/false questions. You also must write on the back of your answer sheet; the 10 major fouls, the 8 technical infractions, the 8 cautions and 3 cautions given to substitutes, and 7 send-off offenses.

Study materials available on-line at USSF or FIFA: LOTG, Guides to Procedures, Advice to Referees, Interpretations for Referees, Grade 8 Entry Class Presentations, FIFA teaching presentations, all USSF Memorandum, and USSF Ask a Referee (<http://www.askasoccerreferee.com/>).

Time is limited, so arrive early. Bring snack/drink/lunch/whatever.

Actual registration - turning in form, payment, etc. - is **the last event** at recert

At the recert you will need to fill out a USSF registration sheet with your basic personal information – **even if you paid on-line**, etc. The SRA needs:

1. your signature (**in ink**)
2. the check in the block that you're not a convicted felon, and
3. the basic info to register/check-your-entry with USSF database.

Registration forms should be printed neatly and **IN ALL CAPITALS**.

You will get a current year badge and Law book when you turn in registration materials.

You will be turning-in:

- Exam (**Please do not write on the exam**)
- Answer sheet
- Registration sheet
- Payment (O/L receipt, check, cash)

Even if you are not currently considering upgrading, maintain your game log.

At the clinic you need basic class supplies: notebook, paper, pencil(s) (to take exam), pen to fill-out and sign registration.

**No, I can't lend you a pen or pencil.**

Web Links you may want:

[http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page\\_id=19](http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page_id=19)

<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html>

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Zone-1.aspx>