

Recertification

Updated August 8, 2012

What is recertification?

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

Who needs to recertify?

All referees must recertify and register with USSF annually. These requirements are set out in the Referee Administrative Handbook (~ page 20, only available on-line at USSF download .pdf).

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?

Grade 8s who miss 1 or 2 consecutive years 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?

Maryland organizes in-service throughout the state. For Grade 7/8 referees there are several one-time sessions of five hours. Alternatively you may attend monthly sessions where offered – see MD Soccer referees.

If you attend monthly clinics you need to attend some combination of sessions and attending Major League Soccer “Referee Days” which can count as one hour towards recertification, to meet the 5 hour requirement.

Link for Maryland Recertification events: <http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/>

Why should I attend monthly clinics instead of a once-a-year clinic?

Monthly clinics are much smaller with more chances to talk one-on-one with an instructor about things that are happening on your fields during the season. The instructors have more flexibility to introduce additional topics requested by attendees, although they will cover important issues such as the annual LOTG Memorandum or State presentations. It’s more personal and immediate.

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

Maryland does not charge for attending a re-certification clinic.

There is a charge to re-register with USSF. Registration for **Grade 7 is \$45.00; Grades 8, 9, and 12 are \$40.00**. You may pay on-line; the SRA sends out the procedure each year. Print out on-line receipt and bring to recertification clinic. You may also pay by check or cash during registration.

For 2013 Maryland SRC is initiating on-line Risk Assessment requirement for all adult referees, for which there will be a \$5.00 Administrative charge.

What is on the recertification test?

The Grade 7 & 8 on-line recertification test is 100 questions similar to the entry exam. Passing is 75%. You will need to take the exam on-line and print-out the certificate to bring to the clinic. At the clinic you also may be **required** to list the 10 major fouls, 8 minor fouls, 7 cautions, 3 cautions to substitutes, and 7 send-offs.

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 to the exam. You can download one from the USSF website <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Registration/Registration-Home.aspx>. The clinic staff may also have forms, but then you have to fill it out neatly by hand.

The registration form asks for experience; you should get a **“game count”** from your game log or game assignments. This is available through Arbiter, if your assignor/association uses Arbiter.

The registration form must be accompanied by the registration fee, cash, check, or on-line receipt. The Maryland Express soccer e-mail system will provide current year instructions before the start of the re-registration period.

Where can I find study materials before a taking the exam?

You should have the Laws of the Game from your class or recertification last year, but it's also available on-line at USSF and FIFA, as is the annual USSF Memo regarding changes to the Laws.

USSF also publishes Advice to 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.aspx> FIFA also publishes “Additional Interpretations and Guidance for Referee” which may be found as part of their Laws of the Game, available on-line.

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 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 has 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 for in-service training.

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 critical for planning purposes. “Google” and the internet are your best friends for general public information (addresses, directions, etc.), not the lead instructor.

In Maryland there is no cost for the clinic. However, annual registration fee with USSF is currently \$40.00 for Grades 8, 9, and 12, \$45.00 for Grade 7.

You may pay on-line; the SRA sends out e-mail instructions every year. You must print out the payment confirmation to give to the registrar at recert.

You also may pay by **cash or check** at the clinic. Checks are payable to **MSR**. You may put multiple referees on one check.

If you pay by cash, please bring **correct change**.

The recertification exam and study materials available on-line: LOTG, Guides to Procedures, Advice to Referees, Grade 8 Entry Class Presentations, USSF LOTG videos, FIFA teaching presentations, all USSF Memorandum, and Ask a Referee (<http://www.askasoccerreferee.com/>).

Time is critical, arrive early to be ready to start on time. Bring lunch.

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

At the recert you need a USSF registration form 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.
4. previous years game count

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

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

You will be turning-in:

- Exam Certificate
- 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 a notebook and pen. Registration must be signed in pen.

Web Links you may want:

http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page_id=19

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

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