

**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Referee Certification Requirements
For 2026**



REGIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

AGE	18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
ENROLLMENT	REGISTRATION
PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE	25 GAMES AS A REFEREE AND 15 AS AN ASSISTANT REFEREE AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL
PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE	MUST HAVE HELD A GRASSROOTS REFEREE LICENSE DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO (2) REGISTRATION YEARS
TRAINING	REGIONAL REFEREE COURSE AND IN-PERSON PRACTICAL TRAINING
SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE	BACKGROUND SCREENING, SAFESPORT TRAINED AND SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS
LAWS OF THE GAME TEST	ONLINE – NATIONAL TEST
FITNESS TEST	SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS (FIFA WOMEN'S REFEREE TEST) MALE – CATEGORY 1 FEMALE – CATEGORY 3
PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS	MINIMUM OF THREE (3) EVALUATIONS – MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) AVERAGING A SCORE OF 8.0 OR HIGHER AS A REFEREE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS REGISTRATION YEAR, TWO (2) AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL, ONE (1) AT THE HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 OR U19) (2X45 – MINUTE HALF) EVALUATIONS MUST BE DONE BY THREE (3) DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES FOR ALL GAMES

REGIONAL RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

ENROLLMENT	REGISTRATION
TRAINING	ONLINE AND ON FIELD EXPERIENCE
SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE	BACKGROUND SCREENING, SAFESPORT TRAINED AND SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS
LAWS OF THE GAME UPDATE AND TEST	ONLINE – NATIONAL TEST
FITNESS TEST	SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS (FIFA WOMEN'S REFEREE TEST) MALE – CATEGORY 1 FEMALE – CATEGORY 3
PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS	MINIMUM OF TWO (2) EVALUATIONS – MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) AVERAGING A SCORE OF 8.0 OR HIGHER AS A REFEREE, ONE (1) AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL, ONE (1) AT THE HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 OR U19) (2X45 – MINUTE HALF) EVALUATIONS MUST BE DONE BY TWO (2) DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES FOR ALL GAMES