



August 2010 United States Soccer Federation Soccer Referee Course

Western Maryland Soccer Officials Association (WMSOA) will sponsor an entry-level soccer referee course at Frederick HS and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Frederick. The course prepares youth and adults for certification as USSF Grade 8 referees, which trains referees to officiate recreational-level youth and adult soccer games. WMSOA provides referees to leagues throughout Frederick and Washington Counties.

The 18-hour course covers the Laws of the Game, officiating techniques, and game management. Student must attend all sessions of the course. There will be a 100 question, multiple-choice test for registration with USSF. Upon passing the entry-level test, participants may register with the United States Soccer Federation as a Grade 8 referee.

Participants should bring: **Notebook, writing materials, and a check for \$30** (covering the course material and instructor fees) to the first session. They will receive a lawbook and other course materials at that time. At the conclusion of the course, participants will need a check for \$40.00 to register with USSF.

We encourage adults, teens, parents, players, and coaches to enroll in this course. Participants should be at least 13 years of age. Please invite your friends, teammates, and other adults to take this course with you. By refereeing youth and adult matches, you will earn good money while you help players, coaches and spectators enjoy "the beautiful game".

Locations: Frederick High School, 650 Carroll Parkway, Frederick, MD
And Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1415 W. Seventh Street,
Frederick, MD (**Saturday only**)

Dates: August 2 (Mon), 5 (Thurs), **7 (Sat)**, 9 (Mon), and 12 (Thurs)
Times: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (Mon / Thurs),
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Saturday)

CLASS SIZE WILL BE LIMITED.

Pre-registration is **strongly recommended.**

E-mail to **Steve Horton** at stephenshorton@aim.com. Please put "Referee" in the subject line. Include participant's name, address, birth date, telephone/cell number, place of birth and citizenship. "Frequently Asked Questions" are available at <http://www.wmsoa.net/training+links>. Other questions regarding becoming a referee may be directed to **Steve Horton** at **(301) 865-5205**. You may also register at the first session on August 2nd. More information and other classes may be found at:

http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/?page_id=21

Soccer Referee Training: Frequently Asked Questions

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

The Maryland State Instructional Staff recommends that students be at least 13 years old before starting 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?

Pre-registration helps organizers plan for the appropriate class size. Contact the Lead Instructor for the course to get a registration form and to verify details of that course.

What do I need to bring to class?

Standard note taking materials. A Law Book (rules) and other materials are provided at the first class. Individual instructors may provide hand-outs.

When are entry-level referee courses held?

Typically in Maryland, courses convene before the Spring and Fall seasons: January-March and July-August. Courses will be posted on Maryland Referee website (<http://marylandreferees.com/msr2/>) 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. Some organizations also hold a Field Practice, about 1/2-day.

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

Yes! Students must attend the full 16 hours of instruction covering the 17 Laws, plus several other 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 other class must be teaching the same material.

How much does it cost to become a referee?

1. The Instructional Fee in Maryland is **\$30.00**, paid at the first session.
2. To register with USSF after passing the exam at the final session is **\$40.00**, payable to **MSR**.
3. Basic uniform kits are available from several suppliers, though the cost may vary, but typically about \$65.00.

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) which may be paid at the last class in a separate check payable to WMSOA.

What is the test like?

The test is 100 questions True/False and Multiple Choice, plus 5 short answer questions. The passing score is 75%.

(**Note:** if your student gets **testing accommodations** in school, you must notify the lead instructor **before** the class starts.)

How and when do I register with USSF?

After the exam, you will be asked to complete a registration form for USSF. This registration is submitted through the Maryland (or state of residence) Referee Administrator. Technically, you may work anywhere in the U.S. through a USSF assignor. If you move to a different state, your registration will be transferred to that state.

How do I get assigned to referee games?

You and an Assignor communicate as to schedules and availability to assign you to games. There are several assignors throughout Maryland; contact information is on the state website. Most areas have an association and assignor for the local youth leagues with their own procedures. There is a separate "how to" for the assignment procedures; ask the Assignor(s) in your area.

OLBASO/Carroll County Assignor is Ross Burbage reburbage@verizon.net

OLBASO web-site is: <http://www.oldlinereferees.org/>

WMSOA (Frederick/Hagerstown) Assignor is Mike Truax mtruax@myactv.net

WMSOA web-site is: <http://www.wmsoa.net/>

WMSOA uses "The Arbiter" on-line assigning, which will be explained by the Assignor. Each referee must have an individual e-mail address to be assigned in Arbiter. OLBSOA currently does not use on-line assigning.

Can I use my parents' e-mail?

No. For game assignments, you must have your own individual e-mail and be responsible to accept or decline assignments. **Parents:** if you want to monitor/maintain control all other e-mail, the association will ensure you also

receive those communications. We can also ensure that e-mail is not distributed beyond the instructor, association secretary, and assignor.

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

It depends. Many organizations publish a procedures handbook with local league rules, pay scale, and other pertinent information. The local youth recreational league in Frederick, FCYSL, pays each referee on the field; others pay through WMSOA and you will be paid at the end of each season. Rates vary but it's not unusual to do three 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 any game assignments. Uniform consists of a regulation jersey, shorts, and socks. As a minimum you must have the primary jersey - gold with black pinstripes, black referee shorts, and black socks with three white stripes. You *may not* substitute your team shorts or other non-regulation uniform items.

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 \$40.00.

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. These organizations have different rules and administrative procedures. Contact the local referee organization or league/facility for requirements for these games.

USSF	Last Name	First (Full)	MI	Address	Address 2nd Line (Apt #, etc., if needed)

1. Please enter **last** name, full **first** name (not nickname), and **middle initial**
2. House **number, street, city, and zipcode (zipcode formatted also)**
3. **Student's e-mail** and Parent's e-mail so that **parents can receive all communications** from WMSOA also
4. **Home phone** and cell or work number: **DIGITS Only**, cell is formatted, please do not add spaces or punctuation
5. **Gender** (M/F), **DoB** (MM/DD/YY), and **country** of birth and citizenship

gray field is not mandatory

Note: some fields are **formatted**, specifics in text blocks below them

City	State	Zip	E-mail Address	Secondary E-Mail (Parent's E-Mail)
	MD			

9 digit, if you don't know, just **add 0000**

Home Phone	Cell Phone <u>or</u> Work Phone	Gender (M/F)	DOB MM/DD/YY	Born	Citizenship
				USA	USA

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MM / DD / YY

What **Country**?