

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://www.marylandsoccer.com/referees/>) 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 (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 or 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.