



## Introduction to the AYSO National Referee Program

This introduction provides information on the training modules for the U8 Official Course, Assistant Referee Course, Basic Referee Course, Intermediate Referee Course, Advanced Referee Course. The AYSO National Referee Course is separate from the other courses and is not modularized.

The AYSO National Referee Program is designed to provide training to referees and prospective referees that will allow them to referee an AYSO soccer match under FIFA Laws of the Game and the AYSO National Rules and Regulations. It is the intent of this program to standardize the course requirements for consistency throughout AYSO.

With the exception of training for the U8 Official, referee designations and training is not directly associated with any specific age group. The U8 Official Course prepares volunteers to officiate AYSO matches for players under 8 years of age but does not adequately prepared them for any other level of AYSO play.

It is the belief of AYSO that Regional Referees and above should have sufficient training to provide skills to referee many AYSO soccer matches. It is obvious that to effectively referee higher level games a referee must have experience, physical conditioning and mental preparation, as well as training. Training in AYSO is a continuing process. Referees are encouraged to continue their education by annually attending additional training and update sessions.

Every referee must have a sound foundation in the Laws of the Game as a prerequisite to being certified as a referee. The training program provides the foundation at the Regional Referee level. To confirm this knowledge at the Regional Referee level and higher, candidates are expected to successfully pass appropriate level referee examinations. These examinations are considered to be a separate requirement and are not a required part of the referee training courses.

At each referee certification level, there are requirements in addition to training and testing. It is the responsibility of the individual referee to ensure that they meet all other requirements.

The training program has been organized into modules that must be completed to meet up-grade requirements. In addition, any and all of the modules may be used for continuing education that may not necessarily result in up-grade.

Except for those in the U8 and Basic Referee Course, modules may be presented in any sequence for certification. These modules may be taught as part of an Intermediate or Advanced Course or they may be presented individually as part of continuing education. The Teaching Plans for each course identifies the modules required for various levels of certification.

Referees who attend training for up-grade must maintain their individual training record and obtain appropriate signatures for modules attended and completion of other requirements.



Lesson plans for each of the courses have been prepared as guidelines for instructors. Each lesson plan indicates the referee instructor level necessary to be the lead instructor. AYSO encourages lead instructors to use their own initiative in developing how material may be presented. Each instructor however, is responsible to ensure the lesson goals and learning objectives of the lesson plans are met.

### AYSO Referee Training Modules

Mod #	Module	Time	U8	A/R	Regional	Intermediate	Advanced
1	Safe Haven	60 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
2	The Game of Soccer	30 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
3	Pre-Game Preparation	30 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
4	Starting the Game	30 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
5	Stopping Play	30 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
6	Restarting Play	45 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
7	Post Game	15 min	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
8	Mechanical Aspects of the Game	30 min			XX	XX	XX
9	Stopping Play & Restarts-Basic	45 min			XX	XX	XX
10	Fouls and Misconduct-Basic	60 min		XX	XX	XX	XX
11	Off-Side-Basic	30 min		XX	XX	XX	XX
12	Referee & Assistant Referee Mechanics-Basic	45 min		XX	XX	XX	XX
13	Understanding the AYSO Game	45 min			XX	XX	XX
14	The Referee Team	60 min				XX	XX
15	Fouls, Misconduct and Foul Play-Intermediate	90 min				XX	XX
16	Off Side-Intermediate and How to be an Assistant Referee	135 min				XX	XX
17	Inter-Action With Coaches & Players	90 min				XX	XX
18	Diagonal System of Control and Game Tactics	60 min				XX	XX
19	The AYSO National Referee Program	45 min				XX	XX
20	Players, Substitutes & Others	90 min					XX
21	Off Side-Advanced	60 min					XX
22	Match Preparation	135 min					XX
23	Fouls and Misconduct in the Advanced game	90 min					XX
24	Reading the Game	60 min					XX



## ***Rationale for AYSO Referee Levels***

### ***U-8 Official***

Trained in the fundamental skills needed to officiate short-sided games for players under 8 years of age.

### ***Assistant Referee***

Trained in basic skills needed to be an AYSO Assistant Referee.

### ***Regional Referee***

Trained in the basic skills needed to referee AYSO matches under AYSO (FIFA) Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

### ***Intermediate Referee***

Trained in the skills needed beyond the basic level to referee soccer matches that are more physically demanding and challenging under the AYSO (FIFA) Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

### ***Advanced Referee***

Trained in the advanced skills needed to referee most upper level AYSO soccer matches under the AYSO (FIFA) Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.

### ***National Referee***

Trained in the professional aspects of refereeing needed to referee the most challenging upper level matches under the AYSO (FIFA) Laws and AYSO National Rules & Regulations.

## ***AYSO Referee Certification and Training Requirements***

### ***U-8 Official (minimum age 10)***

Games: No minimum number of games required

Training: Complete modules 1 through 7 (U-8 Official Course) (Includes Safe Haven Referee Certification – module 1)

Testing: Take U-8 Official exam

Assessment: Not required

Fitness Test: Not required

Service: None required

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### ***Assistant Referee (minimum age 12)***

Games: No minimum number of games required

Training: Complete modules 1 through 7 (U-8 Official Course) plus modules 10,11 & 12

Testing: Take Assistant Referee exam

Assessment: Not required

Fitness Test: Not required

Service: None required

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### ***Regional Referee (minimum age 12)***

- Games: No minimum number of games required
  - Training: Complete modules 1 through 13 (Basic Referee Course)
  - Testing: 75% or better on the Regional Referee exam
  - Assessment: Not required
  - Fitness Test: Not required - an introduction to the AYSO Physical Fitness Test is recommended.
  - Service: None required
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### ***Intermediate Referee (minimum age 14)***

- Games: 25 as referee with at least 5 in U-12 matches
  - Training: Complete Modules 14 through 19 (Intermediate Referee Course)
  - Testing: 90% or better on the Intermediate Referee exam
  - Assessment: See note 3 below.
  - Fitness Test: Not required - practice for AYSO Physical Fitness Test is recommended
  - Service: None required
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### ***Advanced Referee (minimum age 16)***

- Games: 50 as referee (10 in U-14) and 5 as an assistant referee (in U-14)
  - Training: Complete Modules 20 through 24 (Advanced Referee Course)
  - Testing: 90% or better on the Advanced Referee exam
  - Assessment: One as referee and one as assistant referee in a U-14 match
  - Fitness Test: Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level.
  - Service: Do a minimum of five service units. See note 4 and 5 below.
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### ***National Referee (minimum age 18)***

- Games: 100 as referee with at least 30 in U-16 and U-19 matches of which at least 15 must be in U-19, if available, and 25 as Assistant Referee with at least 10 in U-19, if available. The SRA may authorize substitution of U-16 for U-19 if U-19 matches are not available.
- Training: Complete the National Referee Course. A pre-requisite game count of at least 80 matches as referee prior to attending the National Referee Course is required.
- Testing: 90% or better on the National Referee exam
- Assessment: Two assessments as referee in U-16 or U-19 matches with at least one in U-19, if available, and one as assistant referee in a U-19 match, if available. The SRA may authorize substitution of U-16 for U-19 if U-19 matches are not available.
- Fitness Test: Complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level.
- Service: Do an additional five service units. See note 4 below.



**Notes:**

1. Field assessments for level upgrades must be done in a **TYPICAL REGULAR SEASON AYSO** match in the age group specified, using the Diagonal System of Control. Matches used for upgrade assessments must be of the duration specified for that particular age group in the AYSO National Rules and Regulations except that U-16 and U-19 matches shortened by no more than 5 minutes per half are acceptable.
2. If requested by the referee being assessed, a higher division match or a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age division (or higher) may be used for the assessment.
3. Applicants for Intermediate Referee level must be mentored by a Referee Mentor (or assessor) and recommended for upgrade by the Regional Referee Administrator or the Regional Director of Assessment. At least one observation as a referee is required, and one as an assistant referee is recommended.
4. Service units consist of:
  - Observer-friendly observations
  - Mentoring of new referees for development or upgrade
  - Serving as a Referee Administrator, Director of Assessment, or Director of Instruction
  - Instructing Assistant Referee and U-8 Official training courses
  - Instructing Referee Assessor training courses
  - Assessing candidates for upgrade in referee level, if qualified

Note:

No more than two (2) service units may be credited by an applicant for mentoring/observing an individual referee, or one (1) service unit per instruction course or one (1) service unit per year for an administrative function

5. The requirement for performing service units is waived in the case of candidates who are under 18 years old.
6. Entry may be at Assistant Referee, U-8 Official or Regional Referee level but, in addition to the requirements noted above, candidates for upgrade to National Referee must have one year (min.) experience as an Advanced Referee.
7. AYSO Application for Referee Certification forms are available on the [aysohelp.org](http://aysohelp.org) web site or may be ordered directly from the AYSO Supply Center by calling 888-243-2976.



## ***AYSO Referee Mentor and Assessor Requirements***

### **Referee Mentor**

Training:	Successfully complete the Intermediate Referee Course Mentoring Module
Testing:	90% or better on the Intermediate Referee Exam
Assessment:	Assessed, approved and appointed as a Referee Mentor by the Regional Referee Administrator or the Regional Director of Referee Assessment
Authorized to:	Mentor Regional Referees for upgrade to Intermediate Referee

### **Referee Assessor**

Experience:	At least three (3) years of soccer experience as a referee, and must have observed or mentored referees either for improvement or upgrade and have the approval of their Regional Referee Administrator:
Training:	Successfully complete the Referee Assessor Course, and 90% or better on the Advanced Referee exam, and 90% or better combined score on the three Referee Assessor Exams.
Assessment:	Successful completion of two (2) practice assessments on referees officiating under 14 AYSO matches (or equivalent). These “over-the-shoulder” assessments must be mentored by a Referee Assessor or National Assessor.
Approval:	Approved as a Referee Assessor by the Area Referee Administrator or the Area Director of Referee Assessment.
Authorized to:	Assess Intermediate Referees for upgrade to Advanced Referee.

### **National Assessor**

Experience:	Certified as a Referee Assessor with a minimum of one (1) year in grade and performed at least ten (10) assessments/observations, with a minimum of five (5) assessments on Intermediate Referees seeking upgrade to the Advanced Referee level. The candidate must have the approval of the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Assessment.
Training:	Successfully complete the National Assessor Course, and 95% or better on the National Assessor exam
Assessment:	Successful completion on one practice assessment on a referee officiating an under 16 AYSO match (or equivalent) and 1 practice assessment on a referee officiating an under 19 AYSO match (or equivalent). These “over-the-shoulder” assessments must be mentored by a National Assessor.
Approval:	Approved as a National Assessor by the Section Referee Administrator or the Section Director of Referee Assessment.
Authorized to:	Assess Intermediate Referees for upgrade to Advanced Referee, and Advanced Referees for upgrade to National Referee.



## AYSO Referee Instructor Criteria

### Basic Referee Instructor

1. Completed AYSO Basic Unified Instructor Program (UIP) component (2 ½ hours)
2. Must be at least an Intermediate Referee
3. Completed Basic Referee Instructor Course (6 ½ hours)
4. Passed Basic Referee Instructor Examination
5. Passed Basic Referee Instructor Evaluations during the Basic Referee Instructor Course or...
  - a. As instructor in at least one hour of referee modules 1 through 7 with a qualified Referee Instructor Evaluator, **and**
  - b. As instructor in at least one hour of referee modules 8 through 13 preferably with a different qualified Referee Instructor Evaluator

### Intermediate Referee Instructor

1. Fully qualified Basic Referee Instructor
2. Should be at least an Advanced Referee
3. Completed Intermediate Unified Instructor Program (UIP) component (2 ½ hours)
4. Completed Intermediate Referee Instructor Course (5 hours)
5. Passed Intermediate Referee Instructor Examination
6. Passed Intermediate Referee Instructor Evaluations during the Intermediate Referee Instructor Course or...
  - a. As instructor in at least one hour of referee modules 8 through 19 with a qualified Referee Instructor Evaluator, **and**
  - b. As instructor in at least one hour of referee modules 15 through 19 preferably with a different qualified Referee Instructor Evaluator
  - c. One of the above evaluations should be as lead instructor in the U8 or Basic Referee Course

### Advanced Referee Instructor

1. Fully qualified Intermediate Referee Instructor
2. Must be at least an Advanced Referee
3. Completed AYSO Advanced Unified Instructor Program component (3 ¾ hours)
4. Completed Advanced Referee Instructor Course (4 ½ hours)
5. Passed Advanced Referee Instructor Examination
6. Passed Advanced Referee Instructor evaluations during the Advanced Referee Instructor Course or...
  - a. As instructor in at least one hour of referee modules 14 through 24 with a qualified Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator, **and**
  - b. As instructor in at least one hour of different referee modules 20 through 24 with a different qualified Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator
  - c. One of the above evaluations should be as lead instructor in the Intermediate Referee Course

### National Referee Instructor

1. Fully qualified Advanced Referee Instructor
2. Fully qualified Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator
3. Should be National Referee
4. Pass the National Referee Instructor exam with citations
5. Teach substantially all of the lessons in the National Referee Course
6. Be evaluated and recommended for approval by National Referee Lead Instructor(s)
7. Approved by the National Director of Referee Instruction or National Referee Administrator



## **AYSO Referee Instructor Evaluator Criteria**

### ***Referee Instructor Evaluator***

1. Must be at least an Intermediate Referee Instructor
2. Successfully completed Referee Instructor Evaluator Course (5 ½ hours)
3. Must be an AYSO registered volunteer and be recommended by Region or Area Referee Staff

### ***Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator***

1. Should be at least an Advanced Referee Instructor
2. Successfully completed Referee Instructor Evaluator Course
3. Must have performed at least 3 Basic/Intermediate Referee instructor evaluations
4. Must be an AYSO registered volunteer and be recommended by Section or National Referee staff
5. Successfully completed Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator Course (3 hours)

### ***National Referee Instructor Evaluator***

1. Must be a National Referee Lead Instructor
2. Successfully completed Referee Instructor Evaluator Course
3. Successfully completed Advanced Referee Instructor Evaluator Course
4. Must be recommended by a National Referee Course lead instructor or Member of the National Referee staff
5. Must be approved for upgrade by National Director of Referee Instruction or National Referee Administrator



## AYSO Referee Program Matrix – December 2004

<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Lead Instructor Requirements</b>	<b>Authorization Required</b>
<b>Safe Haven Referee Course.</b>	This <b>certification</b> course includes module 1 and certifies volunteers in child and volunteer protection issues for referees. <b><i>This is the certification course for all AYSO Referees</i></b>	1 hour	None	Basic Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
<b>U-8 Official</b>	This <b>training</b> includes modules 1 through 7 and trains volunteers to officiate in U-8 matches.	4 hours	None	Basic Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
<b>Assistant Referee</b>	This <b>training</b> includes modules 1 through 7 plus 10, 11, and 12 and trains volunteers in the basics of being an Assistant Referee for AYSO matches under FIFA Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	6.25 hours	None	Basic Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
<b>Basic Referee Course</b>	This <b>training</b> includes modules 1 through 13 and trains referees in the basic aspects of refereeing needed to do AYSO matches under FIFA Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	8.25 hours	None	Basic Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
<b>Intermediate Referee Course</b>	This <b>training</b> includes modules 14 through 19 and trains referees to do more physically demanding and challenging matches under FIFA Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	8 hours	Completion of the Basic Referee Course is recommended	Intermediate Referee Instructor	Area or Section Referee Administrator or Area or Section Director of Referee Instruction
<b>Advanced Referee Course</b>	This <b>training</b> includes modules 20 through 24 and trains referees to do most matches under FIFA Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	7.25 hours	Completion of the Intermediate Referee Course is recommended	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area or Section Referee Administrator or Area or Section Director of Referee Instruction
<b>National Referee Course</b>	This <b>training</b> is not modularized. The course trains referees to referee all AYSO matches under FIFA Laws and AYSO National Rules and Regulations.	15.25 hours	Completion of the Advanced Referee Course is recommended	National Referee Instructor	National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Instruction
<b>Referee Assessor Course</b>	This <b>training</b> is designed to train assessors to assess officiating skills at the Advanced level.	9 hours	none	Advanced Referee Instructor and an Assessor or National Assessor	Section Referee Administrator or Section Director of Referee Assessment
<b>National Referee Assessor Course</b>	This <b>training</b> course is designed to train Assessors to assess refereeing skills at the National level.	6 hours	Referee Assessor	Advanced Referee Instructor and National Referee Assessor	National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Assessment



<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Lead Instructor Requirements</b>	<b>Authorization Required</b>
<b>Annual Referee Update</b>	This <b>training</b> provides continuing education for referees. Program overview, Law changes, and points of emphasis will be reviewed.	1.25 hours	None	Basic Referee Instructor	Regional Referee Administrator
<b>Annual Update For Referee Administrators, Instructors, and Assessors</b>	This <b>training</b> provides continuing education for referee Administrators, Instructors and Assessors. Program updates and program requirements are reviewed.	1.25 hours	None	Advanced Referee Instructor	Section or National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Instruction
<b>Basic Referee Instructor</b>	This course is designed to teach Basic Instructor candidates how to conduct introductory referee training courses.	6.5 hours Plus Student Teaching	Regional Referee Certification	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area or Section, Referee Administrator or Area or Section Director of Instruction
<b>Intermediate Referee Instructor</b>	This course is designed to teach Intermediate Instructor candidates how to conduct intermediate referee training courses.	5 hours Plus Student Teaching	Basic Referee Instructor	Advanced Referee Instructor	Area or Section Referee Administrator or Area or Section Director of Instruction
<b>Advanced Referee Instructor</b>	This course is designed to teach Advanced Instructor candidates how to conduct advanced referee training courses.	4.5 hours Plus Student Teaching	Intermediate Referee Instructor	National Referee Instructor	Section or National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Instruction
<b>National Referee Instructor</b>	Training is accomplished through mentoring while assisting with national referee training courses.	Variable	Advanced Referee Instructor	National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Instruction assigns mentor	National Referee Administrator or National Director of Referee Instruction

Note 1: Instructors should have taken a course before they teach it.

Note 2: Training modules 1 through 13 should be taken in sequence. Modules 14 through 24 may be taken in any order. All training modules are designed as stand alone continuing education and attendance by anyone interested in the subject is allowed and encouraged. There are no prerequisites required to attend any module.

Note 3: It is recommended that instructors be certified at least one level above the level of course they instruct.