

USSF/CNRA Referee Certification and Recertification Requirements

As of 10/31/2013



For Immediate Implementation

(except where noted - then beginning July 1, 2014)

After meeting with US Soccer in Chicago, Ill and consulting with CNRA State Director of Assessment, State Director of Instruction, State Registrar and other CNRA Advisors. I have concluded the direction CNRA shall move in response to the new and revised USSF Certification and Recertification Referee Requirements which are to be fully implemented beginning July 1, 2014 by all State Associations.

Most of these requirements listed shall become effective immediately as allowed by USSF. CNRA shall also immediately implement all other additional CNRA requirements as we are confident we can ensure our registration and administrative effectiveness during the transition. CNRA will then later adapt to ALL USSF minimum requirements and ANY ADDITIONAL CNRA requirements listed below in **Orange** to be fully implemented beginning July 1, 2014 or even possibly sooner when it becomes benefitting both administratively and for the general referee public..

NOTES: The most significant and complex changes CNRA has adapted to is USSF's modification and approach of the Grade 7 Referee certification and recertifications.

Historically, Grade 7 has been an advancement step from Entry Level Grade 8 that required significant game experience, one assessment, and a passing of a written test and fitness test. The Federation's approach is now VERY different as it is implementing a three tier approach of Entry Level Referees to serve the different levels of the game.

The three tiers of Referees Grades are now more clearly defined:

Grade 9: Recreational and Small-Sided Youth Games

Grade 8: Competitive Youth Games

Grade 7: Adult Amateur Games

It is CNRA's approach to maintain many of its prior requirements but also allow for additional ways for Grade 7 advancement and to eliminate the annual fitness requirements and reducing significantly the prior Game Count requirements. But also by adding the additional requirements to participate in a minimum number of Area and/or State Referee Academies offered to all by CNRA.

CNRA will adapt to these new approaches immediately. There are currently in 2013 Registrations, only 183 certified Grade 7 Referees in Cal-North, a 1.43% of CNRA's total referee population. Most of these referees are assumed to be working adult amateur matches and in addition, for many others, building upon their game count to advance to State 6 Referee. In addition to these Grade 7 Referees, there are 73 referees within Grade 1 - 6, less than 1% combined of the whole population. These referees also contribute to servicing the amateur game. It must be assumed then that there are hundreds of Grade 8 referees that are able, willing and known and trusted

by assignors to be regularly working adult amateur level games at some capacity and yet remain identified only as a Grade 8 referee. These Grade 8 referees are either working to obtain experience and game count to advance later or are simply avoiding the additional requirements to maintain a Grade 7 or higher, i.e. cost and time of obtaining assessments and other additional testing. It is CNRA's goal to have these Grade 8 Referees that are actively serving the adult game to now more easily become Grade 7 Referees as soon as possible.

CNRA currently continues to maintain that to become a Grade 7 referee one must still first serve as a Grade 8 referee for at least six months and first gain on-the-field experience. Grade 8 referees may then advance to Grade 7 by one of two ways. They may display competence of the laws, procedures and game management as a referee in a match while being evaluated by an assessor or successfully participate in a "Grade 7 Entry Level Referee Course".

Being able to add an additional opportunity to advance to Grade 7 will better identify these Grade 8 referees that currently and ably contribute to the adult amateur game. CNRA believes that these future Grade 7 referees will benefit by being identified as those with a broader skill set and experience. Assignors may therefore better identify those referees that either already do or are interested in working adult amateur assignments. CNRA through better identification of these referees will also be better able to serve this population with specific instruction and development that these referees require to be able to better perform specifically in the adult amateur game..

The Entry-Level Grade 7 Referee Course will be offered in due time, July 1, 2014 shall be our target date but this may occur sooner. These courses will naturally be very few since course sponsors will come from a smaller pool of sponsors from the amateur league/teams/assignors, CNRA or other.

Grade 8 and Grade 7 referees wishing to serve the amateur level game will now have an opportunity to obtain the special instruction required (beyond just the Laws) to serve this level and type of game more effectively by either demonstrating their skills during a performance evaluation during a match and/or take this Entry Level Grade 7 Course.

The Grade 6 State Referee NOW better begins the identifying of the truly interested and able referee that also desires to advance and serve the game at a higher (State, Regional and National) level.

Immediately below as a reference is a comparison chart of each Grade with the complete USSF vs CNRA Referee Program Referee Grade Certification and Recertification Requirements. (Each of individual Grade Level is more visually identified and separated with the USSF Shield logo.)

Alongside the USSF (minimum) Requirements, CNRA has published what the State Referee Association (CNRA) shall implement (in addition) as our Referee Grade Certification and Recertification Requirements. Each of these are easily identified within the CNRA column, while items designated in **Orange** lettering and numbers indicate where CNRA shall implement a higher standard than what USSF has as their minimum standards.

Because these new and updated CNRA certification and recertification requirements have been reduced or maintained from prior years, CNRA is able to put these requirements into place immediately for current and upcoming 2014 registrations that are now already in progress.

CNRA will continue to evaluate this implementation of USSF requirements and CNRA's additional requirements to ensure that continued improvement, development and overall standards are met or exceeded to serve the varied types of games that are played and to meet or exceed the needs and enjoyment of our referee community.

Sincerely,

Said Ravanfar

State Referee Administrator, California - North



USSF vs. CNRA Referee Program (SAME)
Grade 9 Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 9 – Recreational and Small-Sided Youth Referee

The purpose of the Grade 9 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the small sided and recreational youth game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Minimum Certification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Age	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Training	Complete the Grade 9 Referee Course	Complete the Grade 9 Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Minimum Annual Recertification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association	** Completion of all the online training materials of the Grade 9 Referee Course (see below)
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 9 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer and approved by CNRA
 - ** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.
 - Any additional requirements mandated by CNRA must be made public
 - All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the CNRA. Minimum number of hours associated with a requirement will be posted in each available course description
 - The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
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USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (SAME)
Grade 8 Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 8 – Competitive Youth Referee

The purpose of the Grade 8 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the competitive youth game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Minimum Certification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Age	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Training	Complete the Grade 8 Referee Course	Complete the Grade 8 Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Minimum Annual Recertification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association	** Completion of all the online training materials of the Grade 8 Referee Course (see below)
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 8 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer and approved by CNRA
 - ** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.
 - Any additional requirements mandated by the CNRA must be made public
 - All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA. Any minimum number of hours associated with either requirement will be posted in each available course description
 - The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
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USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (ADDITIONAL CNRA REQUIREMENTS)
Grade 7 Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 7 – Amateur Adult Referee

The purpose of the Grade 7 Referee Course is to prepare officials for the amateur adult game. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Minimum Certification Requirements		
	USSF	CNRA
Age	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	None
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	Minimum of 6 months as a Grade 8 Referee
Training	Complete the Grade 7 Referee Course	Only for Certifications for 2014. G8 Referees must complete one of two of the following choices to Upgrade to G7: 1) Completion of ALL the online and training materials of the Grade 7 Referee Course or 2) Pass a Practical Evaluation. Those that have already successfully completed or have scheduled a Practical Evaluation and then pass it are not required to complete the above online Training to upgrade to G7. Certifications for 2015, beginning July 1, 2014, requirements of a Practical Evaluation shall be eliminated.
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None

Practical Evaluation	None	None
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Minimum Annual Recertification Requirements
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	USSF	CNRA
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association	**Completion of all the online training materials of the Grade 7 Referee Course (see below) and Attend minimum of (2) Referee Academy Area and/or State Sessions
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test	Pass the Grade 7 Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer and approved by CNRA
 - **** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.**
 - Any additional requirements mandated by the CNRA must be made public
 - All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the CNRA. Any minimum number of hours associated with either requirement will be posted in each available course description
 - The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
 - Pass 1 assessment as Center Referee on a U16 competitive youth match or higher that meet a sufficient test criteria (with a minimum of 40 minute halves), completed by a registered Assessor.
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USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (ADDITIONAL CNRA REQUIREMENTS)

Grade 6 Certification and Recertification Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 6 – State Referee

The purpose of the State Referee Course is to prepare officials for the most competitive matches within their state and region. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements		
	USSF	CNRA
Age	Determined by the State Referee Association	Minimum of 18 years old
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	Minimum of 100 games
Previous Grade Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association	Minimum of 1 year as a Grade 7 Referee
Training	Complete the State Referee Course	**Complete the State Referee Course (see below)
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the State Referee Test	Pass the State Referee Test
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval

	Test	Test
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors	Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors

Annual Recertification Requirements
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	USSF	CNRA
In-Service Training	Complete the State Referee Course	**Completion of all the online training materials of the Grade 6 Referee Course (see below) and Attend minimum of (2) Referee Academy Area and/or State Sessions
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the State Referee Test	Pass the State Referee Test
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors	Recertifications for 2014 shall remain the same as the current federation minimum of 1 completed by State Assessor. **After July 1, 2014 any recertification for 2014 and beyond shall meet Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer and approved by CNRA
- **** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.**
- Any additional requirements mandated by the CNRA must be made public
- Game experience must come from affiliated competitive youth and amateur adult games
- Any additional requirements mandated by the CNRA must be made public
- All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the CNRA. Any minimum number of hours associated with either requirement will be posted in each available course description
- The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
- Minimum of 2 passing assessments as Center Referee that meet the sufficient test criteria (from affiliated games with a minimum of 40 minute halves) completed by two different State Assessors, and at least 1 of these assessments must be from an adult game
- Officials can complete additional assessments beyond the minimum required



USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (SAME)

FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests for State Referee 6 and 5
Beginning July 1, 2013

Administration

Sprint Test

- Participants run six consecutive 40 meter sprints followed by a recovery period after each sprint (while walking back to the start line)
- Dynamic start with the front foot on a line that is 1.5 meters away from the electronic timing gates at the starting position
- If a participant falls or trips, they are allowed another attempt at that specific sprint
- If a participant fails one sprint out of the six, they are given one more attempt immediately after the sixth sprint
- If a participant fails two sprints, they fail the test

Interval Test

- Participants run a total of ten consecutive laps
- A lap consists of two 150 meter runs with two 50 meter recovery walks
 - o Starts with running 150 meters in the prescribed time
 - o Followed by walking 50 meters in the prescribed time
 - o This process is repeated to complete one lap
- Walking area is marked by cones 3 meters on each side of the 150 meter marks
- If a participant fails to reach the walking area in the prescribed time, they are issued a warning
- If a participant fails to reach the walking area for a second time, they fail the test

Notes

- The time between the sprint test and interval test should be approximately 10 minutes

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State Referee Standards

- Sprint Test
 - Maximum of 10 seconds per sprint
- Interval Test
 - Maximum of 45 seconds for the 150 meter run
 - Maximum of 45 seconds for the 50 meter walk



USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (ADDITIONAL CNRA REQUIREMENTS)
Grade 5 Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 5 – State Referee

The purpose of the State Referee Course is to prepare officials for the most competitive matches within their state and region. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Certification Requirements		
	USSF	CNRA
Age	Minimum of 18 years old	Minimum of 18 years old
Previous Game Experience	Minimum of 200 games	Minimum of 200 games
Previous Grade Experience	Minimum of 1 year as a Grade 6 Referee	Minimum of 1 year as a Grade 6 Referee

Training	None	None
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the State Referee Test	Pass the State Referee Test
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors	Minimum of 2 completed by a State Assessors

Annual Recertification Requirements
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	USSF	CNRA
In-Service Training	Complete the State Referee Course	**Completion of all the online training materials of the Grade 5 Referee Course (see below) and Attend minimum of (2) Referee Academy Area and/or State Sessions
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the State Referee Test	Pass the State Referee Test
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests	Pass the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests
Practical Evaluation	Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors	Recertifications for 2014 shall remain the same as the current federation minimum of 1 completed by State Assessor. **After July 1, 2014 any recertification for 2014 and beyond shall meet Minimum of 2 completed by State Assessors

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer and approved by CNRA
- **** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.**
- Any additional requirements mandated by the CNRA must be made public
- Game experience must come from affiliated competitive youth and amateur adult games
- All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association and there are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
- The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by the State Referee Association
- Minimum of 2 passing assessment as Center Referee that meets the sufficient test criteria (from an Adult Division or higher affiliated games with a minimum of 40 minute halves) completed by two different State Assessors, and at least 1 of these assessments must be from an adult division game or higher

- Officials can complete additional assessments beyond the minimum 2 required
 - The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
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USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (Same)
Emeritus Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Emeritus Referees

The purpose of the Emeritus grades is to allow officials to retire from the game at the highest referee grade they attained. It may not be used to circumvent any registration, certification or recertification requirements mandated by U.S. Soccer or the State Referee Association.

To become an Emeritus Referee, the official must submit a personal letter of intent to the State Referee Administrator who will then initiate the appropriate paperwork. The official must have held the referee grade in question for a minimum of three years prior to the request. The three years do not have to be consecutive or immediately preceding the request for emeritus status.

For those Emeritus Referees looking to remain active, they must meet the established re-certification requirements each year for the level they want to officiate at and adhere to all registration requirements for that grade.

An Emeritus Referee may become reinstated as a referee so long as they meet the established certification requirements and adhere to all registration requirements for that grade.

Referee Grade	Emeritus Referee Grade
6	16
5	15
4	14
3	13



USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (Same)
Grade 8 Futsal Certification and Recertification Requirements
Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 8 – Futsal Referee

The purpose of the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Course is to prepare officials for amateur futsal competitions at the youth and adult levels. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

Minimum Certification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Age	None	None
Previous Game Experience	None	None
Previous Grade Experience	None	None
Training	Complete the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Course	Complete the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Course
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Test	Pass the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Minimum Annual Recertification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
In-Service Training	Complete the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Course	**Complete the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Course (see below)
Laws of the Game Test	Pass the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Test	Pass the Grade 8 Futsal Referee Test
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Notes

- All requirements listed are minimums provided by U.S. Soccer
 - **** indicates NOT required by CNRA until full implementation on July 1, 2014.**
 - Any additional requirements mandated by CNRA must be made public
 - All training requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA and there are no minimum number of hours associated with either requirement
 - The minimum passing test score is 80% and all testing requirements can be completed online and/or in the classroom setting as determined by CNRA
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USSF vs CNRA Referee Program (SAME)

Grade 8 Indoor Certification and Recertification Requirements (Same)

Beginning July 1, 2013

Grade 8 – Indoor Referee

Since there are no universal Laws of the Game for indoor soccer, there is no formal training provided by U.S. Soccer. Individuals looking to officiate affiliated indoor competition may register with the State Referee Association so long as they are currently registered and certified at any grade level as either a Referee or Futsal Referee. Based on this, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials adhere to the established local rules of competition to best service the game.

Certification Requirements

	USSF	CNRA
Age	None	None
Previous Game Experience	None	None
Previous Grade Experience	None	None
Training	None	None
Laws of the Game Test	None	None
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None

Annual Recertification Requirements
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	USSF	CNRA
In-Service Training	None	None
Laws of the Game Test	None	None
Fitness Test	None	None
Practical Evaluation	None	None