

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



| First-Time <u>Referee</u> Certification Requirements | | |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 13 years of age or older |
| Previous Game Experience | N/A | N/A |
| Previous Certification Experience | N/A | N/A |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check* SafeSport Training* Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard | Online Modules (Learning Center) Online Laws of the Game Update In-Person Field Session |
| Fitness Test | N/A | N/A |
| Practical Evaluation | N/A | N/A |
| Existing Referee Recertification Requirements | | |
| Previous Certification | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least one (1) Referee license during the previous three (3) registration years; or Held a Regional Referee license in the previous registration year |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check* SafeSport Training* Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard | Online Modules (Learning Center) Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Fitness Test | N/A | N/A |
| Practical Evaluation | N/A | N/A |

* Only required for officials 18 years of age and older.

| First-Time <u>Regional Referee</u> Requirements | | |
|--|---|---|
| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 18 Years of Age and Older |
| Previous Game Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | 25 Games as a Referee and 15 games as an Assistant Referee at the adult amateur level |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held a Referee license for each of the two (2) previous registration years |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | Regional Referee Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update 5 hours of Continuing Education instruction provided by CNRA* | Regional Referee Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update In-person Field Training |
| Fitness Test | U.S. Soccer Standard | Sprint / Interval Tests (FIFA Women's Referee Test) Male – Category 1 Female – Category 3 |
| Practical Assignments | U.S. Soccer Standard | Minimum of three (3) evaluations within the past 12 months with an average score of 8.0 or above: Two (2) at the adult amateur level, one (1) at the highest youth level (U18, U19, 2 x 45-minute half) |

* 5 hours of Continuing Education instruction can be satisfied by attending the following:

- Monthly Regional Referee Continuing Education webinars presented by CNRA (1 hour per webinar)
- Monthly Advanced Referee Program webinars presented by CNRA (1 hour per webinar)
- Monthly Elite Referee Program webinars presented by CNRA, invitation only (1 hour per webinar)
- Attendance at in-person Advanced Referee Program seminars or events (3 hours per event)
- Attendance at in-person Elite Referee Program seminars or events, invitation only (3 hours per event)
- Other in-person seminars presented by CNRA, to be evaluated individually as needed

Existing Regional Referee Recertification Requirements

| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 18 Years of Age and Older |
| Previous Certification | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least one (1) Regional license in the previous three (3) registration years; or Must have held a National Referee or National Assistant Referee license during their referee career |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | Regional Referee Recertifying Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update 5 hours of Continuing Education instruction provided by CNRA* | Regional Referee Recertifying Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Fitness Test | U.S. Soccer Standard | Sprint / Interval Tests (FIFA Women's Referee Test) Male – Category 1 Female – Category 3 |
| Practical Assignments | U.S. Soccer Standard | Minimum of two (2) evaluations within the past 12 months with an average score of 8.0 or above: One (1) at the adult amateur level, one (1) at the highest youth level (U18, U19, 2 x 45-minute half) |

* 5 hours of Continuing Education instruction can be satisfied by attending the following:

- Monthly Regional Referee Continuing Education webinars presented by CNRA (1 hour per webinar)
- Monthly Advanced Referee Program webinars presented by CNRA (1 hour per webinar)
- Monthly Elite Referee Program webinars presented by CNRA, invitation only (1 hour per webinar)
- Attendance at in-person Advanced Referee Program seminars or events (3 hours per event)
- Attendance at in-person Elite Referee Program seminars or events, invitation only (3 hours per event)
- Other in-person seminars presented by CNRA, to be evaluated individually as needed

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



Regional Emeritus Referee Certification & Recertification

| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 45 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least three (3) Regional Referee or Regional Emeritus licenses in their career |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard | Emeritus Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Fitness Test | N/A | N/A |
| Practical Assignments | N/A | N/A |

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



National Emeritus Referee Certification & Recertification

| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 45 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held a National Referee, National Assistant Referee, PRO, FIFA or National Emeritus license for at least three (3) registration years |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard | Emeritus Online Course Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Fitness Test | N/A | N/A |
| Practical Assignments | N/A | N/A |

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



| First-Time Referee Mentor Requirements | | |
|---|--|---|
| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 18 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | A cumulative of two (2) years of on-field experience as a certified referee |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard + In-person course | Online Referee Mentor course Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Practical Evaluation | N/A | N/A |

| First-Time Referee Mentor+ Requirements | | |
|--|--|---|
| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 18 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least: Mentor license within previous two (2) years; or Referee Coach license within previous two (2) years; or a FIFA, PRO or National Match Official license during their career |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard + In-person course | Online Referee Mentor+ training Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Practical Evaluation | N/A | N/A |

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



| Existing Referee Mentor Recertification Requirements | | |
|--|--|--|
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 18 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least one (1) Referee Mentor license within the three (3) previous registration years; or Must have held a Referee Coach license during the previous registration year |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | <p>Online Referee Mentor Recertification Course</p> <p>Attendance at the annual in-person Referee Coach/Mentor Seminar hosted by CNRA and participation in a minimum of 2 monthly Referee Coach/Mentor Continuing Education webinars hosted by CNRA</p> <p>-- OR --</p> <p>If no in-person session is attended, participation in a minimum of 4 monthly Referee Coach/Mentor Continuing Education webinars hosted by CNRA</p> | Online Referee Mentor Recertification Course |
| Practical Assignments | Two (2) leading a practical exercise (field session) | <p>One (1) leading a video analysis session</p> <p>One (1) leading a practical exercise</p> <p>One (1) observing the performance of match officials</p> |

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



| First-Time Referee Coach Requirements | | |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Criteria | CNRA Policy | U.S. Soccer Policy |
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 21 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least: Referee Mentor+ license for each of the previous two (2) registration years; or One (1) FIFA, PRO or National Match Official license within the current or previous two (2) registration years |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard | Online Referee Coach Training Online Laws of the Game Update Referee Coach Course in-person session (4-day course hosted by U.S. Soccer) |
| Practical Assignments | U.S. Soccer Standard | In-course assessments requiring a passing grade |

Registration Requirements

Registration Year 2026



| Existing Referee Coach Recertification Requirements | | |
|---|--|--|
| Age | U.S. Soccer Standard | 21 years of age or older |
| Previous Certification Experience | U.S. Soccer Standard | Must have held at least one (1) Referee Coach license or at least one (1) National Referee Coach license in the previous two (2) registration years |
| Safety and Compliance | U.S. Soccer Standard | Background Check SafeSport Training Safe & Healthy Playing Environments |
| Training | U.S. Soccer Standard and Attendance at the annual in-person Referee Coach/Mentor Seminar hosted by CNRA or the annual in-person Assessment Program Seminar hosted by CNRA and participation in a minimum of 3 monthly Referee Coach/Mentor Continuing Education webinars hosted by CNRA (3 webinar sessions required in addition to either in-person session) -- OR -- If no in-person session is attended, participation in a minimum of 6 monthly Referee Coach/Mentor Continuing Education webinars hosted by CNRA | Online Referee Coach Recertification Training Online Laws of the Game Update |
| Practical Assignments | Five (5) game evaluations including: Post-game reflection with the referee team (debrief) and written feedback for the referee team | One (1) leading a video analysis session One (1) leading a practical exercise Five (5) game evaluations including: Post-game reflection with the referee team (debrief) and written feedback for the referee team |