

## 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?

Yes! There are now on-line videos which will be assigned as previews (homework) before each session, including the first. Pre-registration also helps organizers plan for the class size. Contact the Lead Instructor for the course to get a registration form and to verify details of that course.

Walk-ins may be accepted, but will already be behind the class in common knowledge.

### What do I need to bring to class?

Standard classroom materials. A Law Book – rules - and other materials are provided at the first class. Individual instructors may provide hand-outs.

Before the first class you should receive an e-mail containing information for the class. There may also be some **pre-view material** assigned.

### When are entry-level referee courses held?

Typically 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. There may be some homework assigned. Some organizations also hold a practical Field Day.

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

**Yes!** Students must attend all 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 \$70.00.
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); may be paid at the last class, Field Day, or other time. It is 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. This registration is submitted through the Maryland (or state of residence) Referee Administrator. Technically, you may work anywhere in the U.S. through any USSF assignor. If you move to a different state, your registration can be transferred to that state.

### **How do I get assigned to referee games?**

You and the Assignor(s) communicate as to schedule and availability. There are several assignors throughout Maryland; contact information is on the state website. Most areas have an association and assignor for local leagues with their own procedures. Ask the Assignor(s) in your area.

*Carroll County Assignor: Ross Burbage [reburbage@verizon.net](mailto:reburbage@verizon.net)*

*Web-site: <http://www.oldlinereferees.org/>*

*Frederick/Hagerstown Assignor: Mike Truax [mtruax@myactv.net](mailto:mtruax@myactv.net)*

*WMSOA web-site: <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 e-mail address. You must be responsible enough to accept 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, and for security reasons students are always bcc'd in broadcast e-mail.

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

It depends. Many organizations publish a procedures handbook with 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 game assignments. Uniform consists of a 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. Your shoes/cleats should be **predominantly black**.

### **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. Those organizations have different rules and administrative procedures; contact the organization, league, or facility for their requirements for these games.