



AYSO Referee Certification Requirements

Referee (minimum age: 12)

- **Number of Games:** No minimum number of games required
- **Training:** Complete the Referee Course
- **Testing:** Take the Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** Not required
- **Fitness:** Not required
- **Service:** None required

Regional Referee (minimum age: 12)

- **Number of Games:** No minimum number of games required
- **Training:** Complete the Regional Referee Course
- **Testing:** 75% or better on the Regional Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** Not required
- **Fitness:** Not required – an introduction to the AYSO physical fitness test is recommended
- **Service:** None required

Area Referee (minimum age: 14)

- **Number of Games:** 25 as referee with at least 5 in U12 matches
- **Training:** Complete the Area Referee Course
- **Testing:** 90% or better on the Area Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** (See note 3 below)
- **Fitness:** Not required
- **Service:** None required

Section Referee (minimum age: 16)

- **Number of Games:** 50 as referee (10 U14); 5 as Assistant Referee (U14)
- **Training:** Complete the Section Referee Course
- **Testing:** 90% or better on the Section Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** 1 as Referee and 1 as Assistant Referee in U14 matches
- **Fitness:** Successfully complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level
- **Service:** Do 5 service units (see notes 3 & 4 below)

National 2 Referee (minimum age: 18)

- **Number of Games:** 75 as referee (20 U16); 15 as Assistant Referee (10 U16)
- **Training:** Complete the National 2 Referee Course
- **Testing:** 90% or better on the National 2 Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** 1 as Referee and 1 as Assistant Referee in U16 matches
- **Fitness:** Successfully complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level
- **Service:** Do 5 additional service units (see notes 3 & 4 below)

National 1 Referee (minimum age: 18)

- **Number of Games:** 100 as referee (25 U19); 25 as Assistant Referee (10 U19)
- **Training:** Complete the National 1 Referee Course
- **Testing:** 90% or better on the National 1 Referee Exam
- **Assessment:** 2 as Referee and 1 as Assistant Referee in U19 matches
- **Fitness:** Successfully complete the AYSO Physical Fitness Test for this level
- **Service:** Do 5 additional service units (see notes 3 & 4 below)

Notes:

1. Field assessments for upgrades must be done in the age group specified using the Diagonal System of Control. Service assessments may be done at any level. Games for upgrade in certification must be of full length in duration.
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. The assessor must be AYSO certified, whether or not an AYSO match is used for the assessment.
3. Although an assessment is not required, applicants for Area Referee certification must be mentored by a Grade 3 Referee Mentor (or higher level 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-Friend observations
 - Mentoring of referees for development or upgrade
 - Serving as a Referee Administrator, Director of Referee Instruction, or Director of Referee Assessment
 - Instructing Assistant Referee and Referee training courses
 - Instructing Referee Assessor training courses
 - Assessing candidates for certification upgrade (as a certified assessor)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, or one (1) service unit per year for an administration function.
5. The requirement for performing service units is waived in the case of candidates who are under 18 years of age.
6. Entry may be at the Referee or Regional Referee level, but in addition to the requirements noted above, candidates for certification upgrade to Area level and higher must have:
 - One year minimum experience as a Regional Referee
 - One year minimum experience as an Area Referee
 - One year minimum experience as a Section Referee, and
 - Two years minimum experience as a National 2 Referee
7. AYSO Application for Referee Certification forms may be obtained from your Regional Director of Referee Assessment. Instructions for completing and mailing are on the back of the three-sheet tear-off form