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## **State Referee Association Standards**

Where provided, U.S. Soccer expects State Referees Associations to establish requirements that best support the needs of the local competitions and the referees servicing them. This means that State Referee Associations are expected to work collaboratively with State Association(s) leaders and local competition authorities.

Specific to requirements associated with grade, this includes:

- Minimum age
- Previous game and grade experience

State Referee Associations are also empowered by U.S. Soccer to establish fitness, assessment and training standards outside the parameters of grade. Although independent of grade, these standards should be advanced when compared to the existing U.S. Soccer grade requirements. These advanced standards should be specific to the needs of local competitions or specific to participation in state level development programs.

If fitness standards are required for specific state level competitions, they should be conducted in accordance with the FIFA Sprint and Interval Tests. U.S. Soccer recommends that State Referee Associations use the established State Referee standards but the required time intervals can be adjusted if needed. It is required that a set of speed gates be used to administer the sprint tests.

If assessment standards are required, they should be conducted in accordance with the current guidelines specific to formal assessments. State Referee Associations are also able and encouraged to utilize the following:

- Development and guidance evaluations
- Scouting and identification
- Mentoring

Additional training standards can include, but are not limited to attending:

- Clinics
- Workshops
- Tournaments or other competitions

For national competitions looking to establish requirements specific to assignment, U.S. Soccer can assist in the formation and communication of these standards.

These additional standards can be instituted by State Referee Associations outside the scope of grade requirements and are intended to promote the development of referees and support the needs of local, regional and national competitions.



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### **Emeritus Referees**

The purpose of the emeritus grades is to allow officials to retire from the game at the highest referee grade they attained when state level or higher. 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 recertification 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.

<b>Referee Grade</b>	<b>Emeritus Referee Grade</b>
6	15
5	
4	13
3	



**Grade 13 – Emeritus National Referee**

The purpose of Grade 13 is to allow officials to retire from the game at the highest referee grade they attained. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

<b>Certification Requirements</b>	
Age	Minimum Age of 45 Years Old
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association
Previous Grade Experience	Referee Grade 3 or 4 for minimum of 3 years
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Fitness Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Practical Evaluation	Determined by the State Referee Association
<b>Annual Recertification Requirements</b>	
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Fitness Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Practical Evaluation	Determined by the State Referee Association

**Notes**

- All State Referee Association requirements must be made public
- 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
  - At a minimum, U.S. Soccer requires that training includes the completion of all training materials for the applicable level of play the official will be assigned
- The 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



**Grade 15 – Emeritus State Referee**

The purpose of Grade 15 is to allow officials to retire from the game at the highest referee grade they attained. Based on the level of training provided, U.S. Soccer recommends that these officials be assigned accordingly to best service the game.

<b>Certification Requirements</b>	
Age	Minimum Age of 45 Years Old
Previous Game Experience	Determined by the State Referee Association
Previous Grade Experience	Referee grade 5 or 6 for minimum of 3 years
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Fitness Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Practical Evaluation	Determined by the State Referee Association
<b>Annual Recertification Requirements</b>	
Training	Determined by the State Referee Association
Laws of the Game Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Fitness Test	Determined by the State Referee Association
Practical Evaluation	Determined by the State Referee Association

**Notes**

- All State Referee Association requirements must be made public
- 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
  - At a minimum, U.S. Soccer requires that training includes the completion of all training materials for the applicable level of play the official will be assigned
- The 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