



## **SOCCER REFEREE**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***Why should I referee?***

First and foremost, referees help make the game of soccer fun, fair, and safe. If you love the game, you can help other people enjoy it by becoming a good referee. Other reasons might include getting a decent workout. In upper level competition, referees may run several miles during a match. You also get paid.

#### ***How do I become a basic soccer referee?***

The basic referee is a **Grade 8, Entry Level Referee**. He or she has passed a class and is licensed by the United States Soccer Federation to referee games. The new referee is typically assigned to youth matches—in the beginning, the new referee will work matches for younger players, and eventually work matches with the older and better players.

#### ***What is the referee class like?***

The referee class (or “clinic”)

- Is taught by licensed instructors who like what they do!
- Takes several days to complete.
- Totals 18 hours of your time.
- Is open to all ages, but over 12 years old is recommended.
- Is mainly classroom time, but includes video learning and participation.
- Includes an afternoon of training on a soccer field
- Requires a 75% score on a 100 question test to pass.

#### **CLINIC INFORMATION:**

##### ***How to sign up for a referee clinic:***

Contact Doug Chard for more information: email: [dchard@compuserve.com](mailto:dchard@compuserve.com) or by phone 209-603-3549

#### ***How much does it cost to take a referee clinic?***

Grade 8 costs \$60.00. This includes class materials and class (\$20) and the cost of your license (\$40).

#### ***What else do I have to buy?***

You have to buy a uniform and basic equipment (a whistle, referee flags, a timer watch, and red/yellow cards). Soccer stores have these items available as a “kit” for reduced cost of about \$50. (When my two daughters became referees, I “fronted” them the cost of their uniform and equipment. If they lost a whistle or broke a flag, then they had to replace it from their earnings.)

#### ***Dropping off children at the clinic:***

Parents, please drop your children off five or ten minutes before the scheduled start time, and then be back to the clinic at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled end time. Sometimes a really good class will finish early! The clinic instructors will not “abandon” any student whose parent has not come to pick them up, but we would appreciate it if you were on time.

#### ***What if I don't pass the test?***

When an individual has a difficult time passing their test (below 75%), the instructors will help guide him or her to understanding and passing the test the night it is first given. If a person doesn't pass the first night, the instructor may ask for him or her to return to the next clinic, sit in on the last class, and re-take the test. Out of a class of 30, there are usually about 10 people that need help, so don't feel bad! This is a way for all the instructors to help make sure each person understood each question.

#### ***What to bring to a clinic:***

- A pencil and notebook (or paper)
- Payment. Write check out to: SVSRA.
- For the field-training session, be prepared to run and bring a whistle.
- Depending on the facility, usually you can bring in snacks/drinks.
- A good attitude.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### ***Is there an age limit for refereeing games?***

Normally the center must be at least 2 years older than the players in the game.

### ***Center Vs. Running Lines:***

It is okay if a referee only wishes to run lines, however a referee cannot just be a center referee. We pay center referees more because of the additional responsibility.

### ***Do I need additional training once I have been certified?***

Everyone is expected to take 5 hours of additional training each year. There are different ways to obtain the 5 hours. We will notify you of upcoming in-service clinics.

### ***What does 'Grade' mean?***

Grade does not mean school grade, it is just the ability and experience level of the referee. Grade 8 is the beginning grade, while a Grade 1 is the highest.

### ***What does AR stand for?***

AR stands for Assistant Referee; meaning 'Running Lines'.

### ***I am certified, now what?***

We will start scheduling you for the first available games after you complete the class. With younger and newer referees, we typically start you out refereeing U9 and U10 recreational matches. Once you have shown you can handle these matches, we will assign you to do higher level games like U-12 recreational, or competitive matches.

Don't expect to just jump right in at a higher game level. For some it may only take a few games to go higher up the ladder, for others it may take a year or two. We assign you based on

- Your ability
- Your "comfort level"
- Your knowledge of the game

We don't make you fit some pre-defined mold or pattern.

### ***I have heard about Referee Mentors, what are they?***

Referee Mentors are referees that have done years worth of games. They generally are adults, and have a long history and knowledge of

the game. Their insight towards the game is huge, and they willingly share this with the newer referees. Having a mentor at the fields means you have a friendly advisor at the fields, someone who knows what you are feeling and can help with difficulties.

### ***What would a Referee Mentor do?***

A Referee Mentor is typically assigned to a game with a newer referee, but may be assigned to a game with referees who have been doing games for several years. For example, the experienced referee may have asked for help or knowledge to move up the ladder. Having a referee mentor at your games does not mean that you are not "good enough" or "need help"—mentors are for added support for our referee team. The referee mentor shows up to your game before it starts and just observes you in what you are doing before the game. The referee mentor may give you suggestions or helpful tips on things you can do before a game, during or after. They will observe the game. At half time, they may talk to you and go over some plays or calls you made during the match. Again, teaching tips only. At the end of the game, a referee mentor may mention more topics that help you out. If you ever see a mentor out watching games, it is to give you support and you most certainly should use this to your advantage. Your mentor welcomes your questions!

### ***How do I get paid for games?***

Fill out the game card for each match that you work and get it to your assignor or mentor. The form includes all the information you must document. The amount you get paid depends on the age level of the match and the level of competition (recreational, upper house, or competitive). Pay checks are written every two weeks during the season and are distributed at the fields the following weekend.

### ***Referee Closet:***

If you have stepped down from refereeing, and you don't wish to keep your uniform or equipment, we would love to collect it and keep it for new referees who don't have uniforms or for referees who need more equipment. This is a great way to recycle your ref gear!

Material for this flyer provided by:

Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association