

How to Become a US Soccer Grassroots Referee

The Grassroots Referee course consists of an online portion through the US Soccer Learning Center (LC) plus an In-Person session offered by Maryland. Candidates should register for the Grassroots Course through the Officials Management System (OMS). A list of the courses can be accessed from the Maryland Soccer Referee website (www.marylandreferees.com).

1. The online portion consists of 4 lessons:
 - a. **Lesson 1** will direct the candidate to the US Soccer Learning Center, where they will begin the online portion of the Grassroots Referee requirements. Once they complete the entire online session (approx. 4.5 hours), they will receive a congratulatory email from US Soccer and will be instructed to attend an In-Person session.
 - b. **Lesson 2** is entitled "Providing a Healthy and Safe Playing Environment" and will take approximately 30 minutes. This is mandated by US Soccer.
 - c. **Lesson 3** consists of a 25 question quiz pertaining to the Grassroots Referee program.
 - d. **Lesson 4** is SafeSport training. This is a mandatory session that must be successfully completed by everyone 18 years and older.
2. Upon successful completion of the online portion, everyone must attend an In-Person session. The In-Person session is approximately 5 hours and covers many of the basics required to start officiating games. During the course, instructors will cover topics such as Referee uniforms, how to get game assignments, how and when to blow the whistle, basic positioning, player management, pregame and postgame responsibilities, and many other facets of refereeing. These sessions are hands-on and everyone is expected to actively participate.
3. At the conclusion of the In-Person session, all candidates who have completed everything successfully, will be awarded their Referee "badge". Instructors and mentors remain very accessible ongoing to all referees to help them improve their skills.