

Frequently Asked Questions – Colorado Referees

Becoming A Referee

Who can become a US Soccer Certified Referee?

Anyone who has passed their 13th birthday can become a Referee. Requirements for Grassroots Referee Certification include completing the New Grassroots Referee Certification course which includes online learning modules and an in-person session. For those age 18 and above, it also includes annual SafeSport Certification and the NCSI Gold Standard Background Check (additional fee applies)

What Does It Cost to Become A Soccer Referee in Colorado?

The costs to become a referee include the course as well as first year's registration with US Soccer.

The total is \$90 and breaks down this way:

- \$20.00 - US Soccer annual registration (listed as surcharge)
- \$30.00 - Colorado annual registration
- \$40.00 New referee training course fee

For anyone age 18 or older, there is an additional cost for the required background check.

- \$30.00 – NCSI Background Check (good for 2 years) US Soccer requirement

What If I Just Want to Learn More About Becoming A Referee?

The [Colorado Online Course](#) is for those people who think they may want to become a referee but aren't sure yet – sort of a *Try it Before You Buy It* program. It is a part of the full Grassroots First Time Referee Course that we have opened to help people learn about becoming a referee without investing in the registration fees initially. This course **is not** for anyone who wants to start working games immediately because it is a 'sampler' course – not the full referee training.

How Do I Pick A Grassroots Referee Course To Attend?

To help everyone who is interested become a referee, Colorado has two options:

- First Time Referee** course is offered in two formats: on-the-field session (held at a local soccer facility) or in-person zoom sessions.
 - Traditional license pathway
 - Qualifies for premium pay incentives
 - Able to upgrade to Regional Referee and beyond as appropriate.
 - Required annual certification course

- **Digital Referee License**, which is specifically designed for former players, coaches and those who just want to step in and help without attending the full 8 to 10 hour online and in-person course.
 - Requires annual certification
 - Does not qualify for premium pay or license upgrade

While anyone who has passed their 13th birthday can attend any course, we strongly recommend that those age 13 – 15 attend an on-the-field in-person session.

The on-the-field sessions often involve actual scrimmages to put your knowledge into practice and always include involve participation drills to simulate game situations.

The zoom in-person sessions, which also do require active participation (meaning the student must be able to use video and audio of their computer) and space to do limited drill activities, relies more heavily on video review, analysis, and discussion.

The in-person zoom sessions are usually more appropriate for those who have more years of being a soccer participant (player, parent, coach) or do well in other online classroom situations.

For the grassroots referee, there are no ‘physical tests’ for certification. Upon completion of all the requirements of the course, (online modules and in-person session), students are granted their grassroots referee license.

To see the list of currently offered courses, visit this link: [Current New Referee Courses](#)

What Do I Do After Attending A Class?

Upon completion of your course, you will receive a Welcome Letter from Colorado Referees and a Congratulation email from US Soccer. In the Welcome Letter will be links to the Colorado Guide for Referees and payroll documents as well as instructions about how to create your personal account in our game assignment platform.

If you didn’t purchase a uniform before attending class, you will need to get your gear so you can start working games.

And then you will need to list your availability in our game assignment platform so assignors can get you working!

How Do I Get A Referee Uniform and Kit?

As discussed during your online modules and in class, there are things you need as a Referee to do your job. Where and how you purchase those is your personal decision as long as they meet the official uniform requirements as listed [HERE](#).

OSI (Officials Sports International) is the official supplier of uniforms to US Soccer. If you did not take advantage of the special Colorado kit when you registered for class, you can purchase from their [website](#) or the local representative in Colorado, [Lela Marcin](#).

However, you may purchase your uniform and kit from anywhere (Amazon, Wal-Mart, other equipment stores) as long as it meets the official requirements.

How Do I Get Game Assignments?

Colorado youth league (and some adult league) assignors use a web-based game assignment platform to assign games - csarefereeassignments.assignr.com. When you create your account in the assignment platform, local assignors will be able to 'import' you into their groups. It is your responsibility to tell the assignors when you can work by using the availability calendar in the platform. Colorado Assignors use a platform that assumes you can't work – unless you tell us otherwise. There are more details about adding availability on the ColoradoSoccer.org website in the Referee section.

How Much Do I Get Paid?

CSA Advanced League game pay rates are set by CSA. Tournaments can use those rates or set their own. In-house and recreational game fees are decided by the home club and are always able for you to look at the in the assignment platform.

Here's the current pay rates for CSA Advanced League games

¶ **Base Referee Compensation** – pay rates apply across the board to all officials throughout the state. ¶

Game Level	Position	
	Referee	AR
11U - 12U	\$ 35.00	\$ 25.00
13U - 14U	\$ 43.00	\$ 35.00
15U - 16U	\$ 75.00	\$ 60.00
17U - 19U	\$ 95.00	\$ 75.00

¶ *Note: Home clubs are responsible for payment to referees for recreational, intermediate and Front Range League games. These are the suggested rates for the listed age groups in the recreational leagues & Front Range Leagues. Rates will vary between leagues/events. For 10U and younger age groups – referees can reference pay rates provided in GameOfficials.net for the specific league by selecting **Game Pay** from the main menu.* ¶

Great Additional Information to Help You:

[Referee Pocket Guide](#)

[New Referee Information: Games, Gear and Getting Paid](#)