

Idaho Soccer Referee Assessment Program

The 1999 revision of USSF's "Referee Administrative Handbook" and the "Manual of the National Referee Program" contain guidance for the referee assessment program. This guidance is further expanded upon for the Idaho soccer referee assessment program.

It is of value to restate USSF guidance regarding the authorized/recommended assignment level for each of the referee grades. This restatement is limited to Grade 5 as the higher referee grades are beyond the scope of the Idaho program.

Referee Level	Grade	Highest Authorized Assignment Level
Associate	11	U-14 small-sided youth games
Assistant Referee	10	Asst. Referee on U -14 youth games
Recreational Referee	9	U-14 recreational youth games
		Highest Recommended Assignment Level
Referee - Grade 2	8	U-19 Boys AR comparable youth games
Referee - Grade 1	7	U-19 Boys and amateur mixed leagues AR all games except top division
State Referee - Grade 2	6	Amateur games except top division AR top amateur division/amateur cup games
State Referee - Grade 1	5	Amateur top division games AR professional and international cup games

Referees must be allowed to officiate at next higher level to promote referee development. This can be accomplished by allowing referees to center the easier games at the higher level.

Assignors will need guidance from contracting or supervising associations (in their absence, the District Referee Administrators) for promoting “on-the-field” referee development. Assignors must cooperate by assigning referees to next higher level games as opportunities present themselves. Referees are responsible to make known their refereeing short-term and long-term goals to their associations or DRAs. Referees must demonstrate the commitment to meet those goals. The associations or DRA should provide the guidance to the assignors for aiding referees to meet their stated goals.

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A. General

The assessment program consists of:

1. **Informal observation** - Experienced referees observe the performance of lesser experienced referees and provide oral suggestions, discuss alternate techniques or methods for game and player management, and common sense tips for improving on-field performance.
2. **Formal observation** - Designated senior referees observe and complete the USSF Development and Guidance form. The observer provides support to the referee by discussing aspects of positive performance and suggests no more than three items to work on in future games. Any other type of checklist is acceptable if the Development and Guidance form is not available. The post-game conference is the primary form of feedback. Brief written comments including an action plan are given to the referee.
3. **Evaluations** – A formal process using USSF forms: Report of Assessment, Game Official and Assessor’s Feedback to Game Officials. The Performance Value section of the report is NOT to be completed. The post-game conference is the primary form of feedback. Written comments and a specific plan are given/sent to the referee
4. **Assessment** - A formal process using the above two USSF forms including completion of the Performance Value section of the Report. The post-game conference is the primary form of feedback. Written comments and a specific action plan are given/sent to the referee.

USSF specifies that assessors performing upgrading evaluations/assessments and maintenance assessments are entitled to receive reimbursement equivalent to the referee's fee payment for that particular game, no more or no less. USSF advises that an intermediary must handle the transfer of the assessment fee between referee and assessor. It considers direct payment between referee and assessor to be **unethical**. The method of assessor fee reimbursement must be agreed upon prior to the evaluation or assessment. It is permissible for referee associations or third parties to reimburse assessors (including observers/evaluators) for their efforts. The amount of reimbursement is unrestrained as long as the membership of the association and not the referee bears the reimbursement cost.

USSF states that the amount of assessment fee should be divided as follows:

Referee upgrade evaluation - Full referee game fee

Referee only assessed - Full referee game fee

Referee and one AR assessed - Referee 75% and AR 25% of referee game fee

Referee and two AR assessed - Referee 50% and each AR 25% of referee game fee

Only AR or both ARs assessed - AR 25% or 25% + 25% respectively of referee game fee.

The referee is obligated to pay the game fee for all team members being assessed and the AR(s) are obligated to pay their share of the assessment fee to the referee.

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B. Observations and Evaluations

Referees - Grades 11 and 9 are terminal grades, however, each such referee should be observed frequently by experienced referees. These grades of referees must successfully complete the USSF Entry Level Referee Training Course to advance to Referee - Grade 8.

Assistant Referee - Grade 10 should be included in all observations and receive feedback accordingly.

Referee - Grade 8 should be observed at least once a year and preferably once each season.

Upgrading to Referee Grade 7:

Referee - Grade 8 seeking to upgrade to Grade 7 must pass one evaluation performed by a USSF registered Assessor on a game at U-18 Boys level or a second tier men's amateur game (see Note 2). An assessor recommendation of "Upgrade" is the only acceptable recommendation (see Note 1). An assessor recommendation of "Further Evaluation needed" requires two evaluations for each such recommendation. A game in which the assessor declares, "Game not a sufficient test" will only require one additional evaluation. This additional evaluation may result in a "Further Evaluation needed" performance. In this case two evaluations become necessary.

If the local program needs referees to officiate games of a higher level than U-18 Boys, those referees must be evaluated on a game at that higher level. This requirement is necessary to allow for those referees to qualify for assignment at state amateur tournaments.

C. Assessments

Assessments not authorized by the procedures listed below may be rejected by the SDA. The SDA may allow relief from the procedures on a case-by-case basis. The referee will be responsible for payment of the assessment fee on such assessments.

Referees seeking assessments may be required to travel at their own expense to other locations to gain the assessments.

Upgrading to State Referee Grade 6 :

Referee - grade 7 seeking to upgrade to State Referee - grade 6 must achieve the recommendation "Upgrade" on two referee assessments and one AR assessment, provided no "Further Evaluation needed" recommendations are recorded. If such is the case the two for one penalty is imposed. All assessed games must be competitive league second tier men's amateur games (see Note 2).

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Registered State Assessors will be the assessors. All such assessments must be requested through the State Director of Assessment (SDA). The SDA will have final approval as to the assessors for those assessments. The SDA may delegate the final approval authority as necessary.

An assessor recommendation of "Upgrade" is the only acceptable recommendation (see Note 1). An assessor recommendation of "Further Evaluation needed" requires two assessments for each such recommendation. A game in which the assessor declares, "Game not a sufficient test" will only require one additional assessment. This additional evaluation may result in a "Further Evaluation needed" recommendation. In this case two assessments become necessary.

Referees - grade 7 may request out-of-state upgrade assessments. The State Director of Assessment will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. Registered State Assessors must perform such assessments. Assessments received at USSF sanctioned out of state tournaments will only be acceptable under specific conditions. These conditions are: the SDA is notified in advance, the game has 45-minute periods, the assessor is a State or higher assessor, the assessment is recorded on a Report of Assessment of Game Officials form, and the assessor sends a copy of it to the SDA.

Assessments recommending "Upgrade" are valid for 12 months.

Games to be counted for advancement:

Under-18, amateur top division men and women, and amateur second-tier men's division. Under-17 or lesser age level games do not qualify as games to be counted for advancement.

The purpose of an upgrade assessment is to verify that the referee is capable of managing a challenging game involving second tier amateur teams. To aid in this purpose restrictions must be placed upon the experience levels of the Assistant Referees. Assistant Referees assigned to games involving upgrade assessments cannot be of a higher grade than Grade 7.

An assessor only recommends a referee be upgraded. The final decision to upgrade a referee rests with the State Director - Assessment. Any adverse decision regarding a request for an upgrade will be presented to the State Referee Committee for final resolution.

Upgrading to State Referee Grade 5:

State Referee - grade 6 seeking to upgrade to State Referee - grade 5 must achieve the recommendation of "Upgrade" on two referee assessments and one AR assessment, provided no "Further Evaluation needed" recommendations are recorded. If such is the case the two for one penalty is imposed. All assessed games must be on challenging top amateur division games (see Note 2). Registered State Assessors will be the assessors. All such assessments must be requested

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through the State Director of Assessment (SDA). The SDA will have final approval as to the assessors for those assessments. The SDA may delegate the final approval authority as necessary.

An assessor recommendation of "Upgrade" is the only acceptable recommendation (see Note1). An assessor recommendation of "Further Evaluation needed" requires two assessments for each such recommendation. A game in which the assessor declares, "Game not a sufficient test" will only require one additional assessment. This additional assessment may result in a "Further Evaluation needed" recommendation. In this case two assessments become necessary.

Assessments recommending "Upgrade" are valid for 12 months.

Referees seeking to upgrade to grade 5 may be requested to seek the assessments out of district but within the state.

Referees may request out of state upgrade assessments. The State Director of Assessment will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. Registered State or National Assessors must perform such assessments. Assessments received at out of state tournaments will only be acceptable if the game has 45-minute periods, the assessor is a National or higher assessor, the assessment is recorded on a Report of Assessment of Game Officials form, and assessor sends copy of it to the SDA.

Games to be counted for advancement:

Fifty games must be at amateur Division 1 level.

The purpose of an upgrade assessment is to verify that the referee is capable of managing a challenging game involving top division amateur teams. To aid in this purpose restrictions must be placed upon the experience levels of the Assistant Referees. Assistant Referees assigned to games involving these upgrade assessments should be no more than Referee grade 7 but may use one State Referee grade 6 as part of the refereeing team.

An assessor only recommends a referee be upgraded. The final decision to upgrade a referee rests with the State Director of Assessment. Any adverse decision regarding a request for an upgrade will be presented to the State Referee Committee for final resolution.

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D. Application for Upgrade Upgrade to Referee Grade 7

- Request for an upgrade evaluation should not be sought until the referee has 90% of the required games.
- A referee seeking an upgrade to Grade 7 must submit a record of USSF game experience no later than October 15 to the District Referee Administrator. The DRA will review the record and may reject games as appropriate. The DRA will inform the applicant of unacceptable games if that number of games will result in fewer than the required games for eligibility to upgrade.
- Qualifying games may be added to the record after October 15.

Upgrade to State Referee Grade 2 and State Referee Grade 1

- Requests for an upgrade assessment should not be sought until the referee has 85% of the required games for the first center assessment and 95% for the second center assessment.
- A referee seeking an upgrade to either State Referee class must submit a record of game experience per the Referee Administrative Handbook. This record is to be sent to the State Director of Assessment no later than October 15. The SDA will review the record and may reject games as appropriate. The SDA will inform the applicant of unacceptable games if that number of games will result in fewer than the required games for eligibility to upgrade. It is recommended that the game experience record be informally submitted several months prior to October for SDA review.
- Qualifying games may be added to the record after October 15.

E. Annual Renewal Requirements - Assessment

State Referee Assessors perform maintenance assessments for State Referees Grade 6 & 5. Referee Assessors may be assigned to these assessments for developmental purposes.

Each State Referee must have one assessment listing a recommendation of "Maintain Grade" annually. A "Further Evaluation needed" recommendation results in the two for one penalty.

State Referee Grade 6 maintenance assessments must be on competitive level U-19 Boys games or second-tier men's amateur games.

State Referee Grade 5 maintenance assessments must be on men's amateur top division games.

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The annual maintenance assessments will be used as the basis for level of game assignments for the following year.

The SDA will make a report to the State Referee Administrator of such assessments based upon current year received Report of Assessment of Game Officials for referee re-registration purposes.

F. Referees Designated by the SRA for "Fast Track" Development

These referees must fully comply with the all the above requirements.

G. Reports

The evaluated/assessed referee or AR must be given/sent the appropriate report as soon as possible but no later than 7 days.

Copies of all reports will sent to the SDA within 10 days. These reports may be sent to SDA by electronic means as long as the reports are on the proper form.

NOTES

Note 1.

Referees must be able to perform at the entry level of the next higher referee grade before requesting evaluation/assessments. To ensure this, there is a penalty for the lack of capability to manage a game at the next referee grade level. That penalty is two upgrade evaluations or assessments for each assessor recommendation "Further Evaluation needed".

The assessor can only recommend "Upgrade" or "Further Evaluation needed" on upgrade evaluations/assessments. The "Retain Grade" recommendation only applies to referee requested maintenance assessments or routine evaluations.

A referee-requested upgrade evaluation/assessment cannot be converted a practice evaluation or maintenance assessment once the evaluation or assessment game has started.

NOTE 2.

Some leagues have a "super" division and also a division 1. To reduce confusion the highest skilled division in those leagues is referred to as the top division and the next to highest division is referred to as the second-tier division. (For game experience purpose - both "super" and 1st divisions are Division 1 games.) Referees evaluated for upgrade at U-18 Boys level cannot expect to be assigned to center games involving older age groups, except for planned development purposes.