



NEW JERSEY STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

NJSRC Policy: Regional Referee Upgrade Process 2025-2026

Updated 9/22/2025

Upgrading To Regional Referee Prerequisites

Before an official can begin the upgrading process, they must first meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must have held a referee license for the two (2) previous registration years.
- Must have a completed game count of 25 games as Referee and 15 games as Assistant Referee at the adult level (45-minute halves with 3-person crew).

The game count must be documented and sent to the NJ SRA (sra@njrefs.com) for approval, copying the NJ Office (office@njrefs.com) and NJ SDA (sda@njrefs.com). The games must be on amateur adult level matches that have a 3-person crew and are played at full 45-minute halves.

Please use the following spreadsheet template when sending game counts: [Regional Referee Upgrade Game Count Log](#).

Pre-Upgrade Evaluation

Once the game count is approved, officials will then need to have a pre-upgrade evaluation conducted by a Mentor/Referee Coach. This ensures that the official's skill set and understanding of the game match those needed as a Regional Referee. There will be no charge for this evaluation.

The official will contact the NJ SDA to request a pre-upgrade evaluation on an adult match played at two 45-minute halves and with a 3-person system. Any adult assignor in New Jersey may assign the match. Two weeks' notice of the assignment to the SDA is preferred.

Note: This requirement may be waived if a recommendation comes from a US Soccer National Referee Coach or a member of PRO/PRO2.



NEW JERSEY STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

Formal USSF Evaluations

Once the referee passes the steps above, they will then need three (3) USSF evaluations with scores that average 8.0 or higher. Evaluations must be conducted by different Referee Coaches or National Referee Coaches. Evaluations will be requested through the NJ SDA and may be conducted as blind evaluations*.

Two of the evaluations must be on adult amateur matches. The third evaluation can be on the highest youth-level U18/U19 match (approved by the SRA) or on a third adult amateur game. All matches must have a 3-person crew and played at two 45-minute halves.

Evaluations must be completed in the window of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (the 2025-2026 registration season). Beginning July 14, 2025, all evaluations will be conducted through US Soccer's RefEval online system, which is connected to the US Soccer Learning Center.

If an official fails an evaluation and their average score is below 8.0, the official may request a fourth evaluation. The official must pay an additional evaluation fee for the fourth evaluation and that payment must be received by the NJ Referee Office before another evaluation is scheduled. If the official also fails that fourth evaluation, they must restart the upgrade process in the following season.

*A blind evaluation is when the Mentor/Referee Coach is assigned, and the referee is not notified that a Mentor/Referee Coach will be attending. Referees must ensure that they have a 3-person crew at the match and that match changes are updated to the SDA; otherwise, a \$60 evaluation fee will be charged by the NJ Referee Office.

Regional Referee Clinic and Fitness Test

After successfully completing the USSF Evaluations, officials will be invited by the NJ SRA to complete US Soccer's Online Regional Referee Course via the Learning Center.

Officials must then attend an in-person Regional Referee Clinic, which will be hosted by NJ. The clinic location and dates are to be determined, with the **second weekend of August 2026** as the anticipated date.



NEW JERSEY STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

During the weekend of the Regional Referee Clinic, NJ will conduct a fitness test, which will be the FIFA Women's Referee Fitness Test. Male officials will need to pass the Category 1 test. Female officials will need to pass the Category 3 test.

At the completion of a successful Regional Referee Clinic and Fitness Test (and all other requirements above), officials will be presented with their Regional Referee badges.

Clinic, Registration, and Evaluation Fees

The cost for each USSF Evaluation is \$130 for the 2025-2026 season. Officials will need to send a payment of \$390 to the NJ Referee Office to cover the three (3) USSF Evaluations required to upgrade. This payment must be received before those evaluations can be assigned by the SDA.

The cost for the US Soccer Online Regional Referee Course registration, Regional Referee Clinic, and Fitness Test is \$130. This must be paid online in the US Soccer Learning Center.

As noted above, if an official needs a fourth evaluation, an additional \$130 evaluation fee is required to be sent to the NJ Referee Office.

Note: There are no reimbursements for failed or uncompleted evaluations, course work, or fitness tests. If a referee fails the fitness held at the NJ Regional Referee clinic, they will have to make up that fitness test in coordination with another state referee association.

NJSRC Regional Referee Financial Assistance

To help offset some of the costs to become a Regional Referee and remove barriers to entry for qualified officials, NJSRC will provide a credit that covers 50% (or \$195) of USSF Evaluation fees.

In order to obtain this credit, Regional Referee candidates must average 8.0 or higher on their first three evaluations, successfully pass the fitness test on the first attempt, and attend 5 Continuing Education Webinar series throughout the year.