



Preparing for Assessment

A Guide for Referees

AYSO National Referee Program

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AYSO Assessment Philosophy

Assessments for upgrade to Advanced and National Referee are intended to be a positive experience for upgrade candidates. They are to provide the referee candidate with positive feedback on areas of strength and areas that may be improved.

The evaluation can be an Observation or Assessment for an upgrade, or simply an evaluation for service. Depending on the specific upgrade, the formal evaluation itself is called an Observation or an Assessment.

Service evaluations can be used to provide the referee with feedback though not necessarily associated with an upgrade. The same criteria and process, as outlined in this section of the manual, is to be used for all observations and assessments.

Assessment Requirements

Upgrade to Advanced Referee:

- One assessment as Referee in a 14U game, and
- One assessment as Assistant Referee in a 14U Game.

Upgrade to National Referee:

- Two assessments as Referee in 19U games. When 19U games are not available, 16U games may be used for assessment with the approval of the SDRA or SRA, and
- One assessment as Assistant Referee in 19U games. When 19U games are not available, 16U games may be used for assessment with the approval of the SDRA or SRA.

Service Assessments are assessments not for upgrades but simply to continue to improve performance and may be conducted at any time, at the request of a referee. The same criteria and process, as outlined in this section of the manual, are to be used for all observations and assessments.

Scheduling Assessments

Upgrade to Advanced Referee is requested by the referee and:

- Scheduled through the RRA/RDA
- Assessor assigned by the ADRA

Upgrade to National Referee is requested by the referee and:

- Scheduled through the ARA/ADRA
- Assessor assigned by the SDRA

Service Assessments are requested by the referee and:

- Scheduled through the ARA/ADRA
- Assessor assigned by the RDRA, ADRA or SDRA

Resource Material

- AYSO Wiki: <https://wiki.ayso.org/wiki/Category:Referee>
- IFAB Laws of the Game: <https://www.ayso1ref.com/ifab-lotg>
- AYSO National Rules & Regulations: <https://www.ayso1ref.com/nrr>
- National Referee Program Manual: <https://www.ayso1ref.com/nrpm>
- AYSO Referee Guideline: <https://www.ayso1ref.com/rq>

Tips for the Advanced Referee Candidate

Before the match....

- Be prepared to demonstrate the ability to referee most typical regular season AYSO 14U level matches
- Plan ahead and prepare for the assessment by reviewing resource material
- Ask questions: senior Referees or Referee Staff can help
- Communicate with Assistant Referees prior to the game
- Arrive on time, properly attired
- Conduct a proper field & equipment inspection, pre-game with Assistant Referees and coin toss
- Be physically fit to referee the game

During the Match...

- Referee the game for the players not for the Assessor
- Show good knowledge of Laws of the Game
- Effectively apply the Laws of the Game
- Use only acceptable and understood signals
- Communicate positively & professionally with players and coaches
- Use Assistant Referees effectively
- Use proper positioning for restarts
- Demonstrate knowledge of the diagonal system of control

- Understand and demonstrate adequate foul recognition
- Understand and apply advantage when appropriate
- Apply proper restarts for stoppages of play
- Demonstrate proper time management
- Handle substitutes properly
- Use warnings, cautions, and send offs, as necessary, to properly control the match

As Assistant Referee...

- Participate in referee pre-game
- Maintain proper position throughout the game
- Use only accepted and understood signals
- Properly apply offside
- Manage responsibilities as discussed in the pre-game
- Assist, don't insist

After the Match...

- Complete all post-game referee duties
- Manage your time to review the assessment with the Assessor immediately after the game
- Keep an open mind for suggestions and recommendations
- Have upgrade paperwork available for the Assessor

Anticipate Success-Be Prepared-Have fun!

Tips for the National Referee Candidate

Before the match....

- Be prepared to demonstrate the ability to referee any typical regular season AYSO upper-level match
- Plan ahead and prepare for the assessment
- Communicate with Assistant Referees prior to the game
- Bring all your gear to the match
- Arrive on time, properly attired – your appearance matters!
- Conduct thorough field and equipment inspection, detailed pre-game with Assistant Referees and proper coin toss
- Be physically fit to referee the game

During the Match...

- Referee the game for the players not for the Assessor
- Show total knowledge of Laws of the Game
- Effectively apply the Laws of the Game, including applying the “Spirit of the Game”
- Use only acceptable and understood signals professionally
- Communicate positively & professionally with players and coaches
- Use Assistant Referees effectively and efficiently, as a team
- Use proper positioning for all restarts at all times, anticipating play as needed
- Demonstrate match control through appropriate positioning on

and off the diagonal and sound match management

- Demonstrate complete foul recognition & effectively apply advantage
- Direct proper restarts at all times
- Demonstrate proper time management
- Handle substitutes properly
- Use warnings, cautions, and send offs only as necessary to properly control the match

As Assistant Referee...

- Effectively participate in referee pre-game
- Maintain proper position at all times & demonstrate side-stepping and back pedaling.
- Use only accepted and understood signals
- Properly apply offside and foul recognition
- Manage responsibilities as discussed in the pre-game
- Assist, don't insist

After the Match...

- Complete all post-game referee duties
- Manage your time to review the assessment with the Assessor immediately after the game
- Keep an open mind for suggestions and recommendations
- Have upgrade paperwork available for the assessor
- Understand that a requirement for reassessment is not failure

Prepare-Think-Have fun!