

**Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading
National Referee**

Criteria	National Referee Grade 4	National Referee Grade 3
1. Minimum age	23	23
2. Experience (minimum cumulative career outdoor games at designated level) (See Note F)	Referee: 150 (50 must be Div. 1 adult or higher; 5 must be professional games) Assistant Referee: 100 (5 must be professional games.	Same as for grade 4. See note number 1.
a. Game level to be counted for advancement	Adult League or higher	Same as for grade 4. See Note number 1.
b. Time in present grade (See Note G)	2 years as State Class 1 prior to application date; must have been a USSF referee for a minimum of 1 year (foreign trained referee).	Same as for grade 4. See note number 1.
3. Training course requirements	Attend and successfully complete the National Referee Certification Session.	Same as for grade 4. See note number 1.
4. Written Examination	Must pass a special National Referee Examination.	Same as for grade 4.
5. Field Evaluation (See Notes D, E, F, G,I)	Pass 3 field assessments as referee and 2 as assistant referee. 2 of the assessments as referee and 1 as assistant referee must be on a professional game ¹	As required for renewal; see below.
6. Physical Fitness Test	Physical Fitness Test required As per grade standards (page 25)	Physical Fitness Test required As per grade standards (page 25)
7. Citizenship	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident	Same as for Grade 4

¹ FIFA Referees, FIFA Assistant Referees and National Referees working a minimum of 5 Division I Professional League games should see note I.

**Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading
National Referee (Cont.)**

Annual Renewal Requirements		
Criteria	National Referee Grade 4	National Referee Grade 3
Training	Attend and successfully complete the National Referee Certification Session.	
Written Exam	Pass National Referee Exam	
Physical Fitness Test	Annual Physical Fitness Test required	
Field Assessment (See Notes E, F, G)	Pass two (2) field assessments as referee (one on professional game) and one (1) as assistant referee on professional game.	

Notes and Comments

Note 1. Grade 3 referees must meet all published criteria and be recommended for grade level by the U.S. Soccer Referee Technical Committee. Grade 3 designation will be based on game assignment level (Division 1 and 2 centers) and field evaluations at that level. Certification and re-certification for grade 3 can only come through the technical committee.

Note A, Registration and Upgrading: Registration, annual renewal and requests for upgrading must be made through the appropriate State/Overseas Referee Administrator. Referees who have registered as grade 8 or higher may not re-register as grade 9. There currently is no upgrade path for grades 9, 10 or 11.

Note B, Retaking Exams (grades 11, 10, 9, 8, 7): If a person does not pass the written examination, the entire examination must be retaken after a minimum waiting period of one month.

Note C, Retaking Exams (grades 6, 5): If a person does not pass the written examination, the entire examination must be retaken after a minimum waiting period of three months.

Note D, Assessments: Each failed assessment requires one additional passing assessment as an offset.

Note E, Assessments for National Referee must be by a currently registered USSF National Assessor or an assessor approved by the Director of Assessment and the national office. They must be on games approved by the Referee Committee and played within the dates specified (Dec 1-November 30). The minimum acceptable score is 80. (See note J for additional information.)

Note F, Declaration: State Referees who wish to be assigned to professional games to receive assessments for upgrade to National Referee must complete the appropriate “New Candidate Declaration” form and submit it to the SRA. The SRA will forward the application to the National Office. Forms are accepted between December 1 and December 31 of the year prior to the year the referee will be a candidate.

Note G, Professional Games: The Referee Committee may approve other games to count toward the requirement for professional games. Approved games are listed on the web: www.ussoccer.com

Note H, Fast Track: Candidates for upgrading to National Referee must be acceptable to the National Referee Committee. Requirements other than age, game level, professional game counts and assessments may be waived at the discretion of the National Referee Committee.

Note I, Assessment requirements for FIFA Referees: Three (3) Professional League Division 1 matches as a referee.

Assessment requirements for FIFA Assistant Referees: Three (3) Professional League Division 1 matches as an Assistant Referee.

Assessment requirements For National Referees working a minimum of five (5) Division 1 Professional League matches as a Referee: Two (2) assessments as a Referee on professional league matches and one (1) assessment as an Assistant Referee on an amateur division 1 (or higher) game. You will be asked to list these assessments on your National Camp application.

Assessment requirements For National Referees working a minimum of five (5) Division 1 Professional League matches as an Assistant Referee: Two (2) assessments as an Assistant Referee on professional league matches and one (1) assessment as a Referee on an amateur division 1 (or higher) game. You will be asked to list these assessments on your National Camp application.

All other grade 3 and 4 referees: See chart on page 23.