

Mississippi State Referee Program
Operating Policy and Procedures
Revised – October 15, 2011

Referee Training

All referee, assessor, instructor, and assigning training and certification conducted within the state of Mississippi must be sanctioned and approved by the State Referee Committee. Only currently USSF licensed Instructors in good standing can conduct any type of referee training and certification. The State Director Instruction (SDI) will assign all instructors. Member organizations of MSA shall always seek training and certification through the State Referee Program.

Referee Certification

Individuals must be at least 12 years of age within 3 months of the opening date of the Grade 9 entry-level certification clinic in order to take the clinic and must pass all of the certification requirements. Individuals must be at least 14 years of age within 3 months of the opening date of the Grade 8 entry-level certification clinic in order to take the clinic and must pass all of the certification requirements. An official is not certified until all requirements are met including the satisfactory completion of a KidSafe application if the official is 18 years of age or older. All clinic attendees should sign up in online in advance of any clinic. A fee will apply to all attendees not registering online in advance and there is no guarantee there will be availability in the class for the requesting attendee.

Annual Recertification

All officials must recertify each year and are required to attend the appropriate designated in-service training classes. Assessors and Instructors typically have their in-service training in July of each year. Referees and Assignors in-service training will take place throughout Mississippi at various locations between July and December 31. Any official (Instructor or Assessor by July 31 and Referee and Assignor by December 31) not recertified by the designated deadline will not be allowed to serve in their official capacity until recertification requirements are met, appropriate current and late fees are paid, and approval is given by the State Referee Administrator. An official is not certified until all requirements are met including the satisfactory completion of a KidSafe application if the official is 18 years of age or older. All clinic attendees should sign up online in advance of any clinic. A fee will apply to all attendees not registering online in advance and there is no guarantee there will be availability in the class for the requesting attendee. Grade 9 referees can take a Bridge Course to become a Grade 8 referee (and count it as their recertification) if they became a Grade 9 referee in the previous soccer year. Attendees are not required to be 14 years of age to attend a Bridge Course.

Member organizations of MSA shall not use any official that is not currently certified.

Maintenance Requirements

GRADE 7 Referees

Grade 7 referees are required to attend 5 hours of in-service training. Each Grade 7 referee must attend either the Summer Advanced Training clinic or the annually designated North or South regional advanced recertification clinic. Each Grade 7 referee is also required to pass a maintenance assessment as a referee on a U17 or higher USSF game. The assessment must be scheduled through the State Director of Assessment. Each Grade 7 referee must also pass the physical and written testing requirements as outlined in the USSF Referee Administrative Handbook. Failure to meet the annual maintenance requirements will result in a downgrade to a Grade 8 referee until the requirements are met.

GRADE 5 and 6 Requirements

Grade 5 and 6 referees are required to attend 5 hours of in-service training and it must be at the Summer Advanced Training clinic. Each Grade 5 and 6 referee is required to pass a maintenance assessment as a referee on a Division 1 Adult USSF game. The assessment must be scheduled through the State Director of Assessment. Each Grade 5 and 6 referee must also pass the physical and written testing requirements as outlined in the USSF Referee Administrative Handbook. Failure to meet the annual maintenance requirements will result in a downgrade to a Grade 8 referee until the requirements are met.

Referee Advancement

USSF Registered referees desiring to upgrade must enter the Referee Upgrade Program by enrolling online. All upgrade requirements must be met by December 31. Otherwise the referee must reenter the Referee Upgrade Program in the subsequent year and begin the process again. The criteria for entering and completing the upgrade process will be posted on the MSA web site (www.mississippisoccer.org). The State Referee Advancement Coordinator will present the list of candidates periodically to the State Referee Committee for review and at the MSA AGM State Referee committee meeting in January for potential approval. The SRA may seek State Referee Committee review at other times of the year for extenuating circumstances (i.e. Regional or National events).

Referee Assessment

The State Director of Assessment (SDA) will schedule all upgrade and maintenance assessments after the referee submits their request. Developmental assessments will also be scheduled through the SDA, including assessors utilized for the MSA tournaments and the Assessor-for-the-Day program. Assessors will provide the written feedback as required by USSF to both the SDA and the referee being assessed. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in disciplinary action being taken against the assessor.

Referees are responsible for paying current fees to the assessor when the assessor provides the required reports to the referee AND the SDA. The assessor should provide the report within 7 days. Current Fees for an Assessment are \$50 for a Referee assessment and \$30 for an Assistant Referee assessment.

Assigning

The State Assignor Coordinator will recommend the assignors for each MSA sponsored event to the State Referee Committee. An Assigning Committee will handle preliminary assigning of the Division 1 State Cup when possible. The committee will be made up, but not limited to, the SAC, SRA, SYRA and the Tournament Director (MSA Division 1 Vice President). All MSA member organizations must have an assignor licensed in Mississippi and under the jurisdiction of the State Referee Committee. The State Referee Administrator has the authority to approve an unlicensed assignor in cases of emergency until the next assignor's course is made available.

Assignors using out of state referees must verify that all referees are in good standing with the corresponding SRA of the referee requesting to work. The referee must have passed the appropriate KidSafe (Risk Management) review within their state prior to being considered for assignment in any event in Mississippi.

Traveling to Out of State Events

Referees who travel out of state to officiate games must contact the SRA in advance indicating the dates, location, and assignor's contact information. The SRA will contact the assignor of the event to coordinate approval.