

## **AYSO Referee Frequently Asked Questions**

- [Which class should I take?](#)
- [What if I am already certified?](#)
- [How often do I need to take a class?](#)
- [What is new this season?](#)
- [How can I get support? Before the season? During the season?](#)
- [At what level can youth referees officiate?](#)
- [I already know the laws. Now what?](#)
- [Why are classes so long?](#)
- [What Equipment do I need?](#)
- [Where do I sign-up?](#)

### **Which class should I take?**

AYSO provides a layered series of training for Referees. Referee certification consists of four different steps:

**Step 1.** All AYSO Volunteers must take the “Safe Haven” course and Region 965 recommends taking the “Concussions” course. Both are Online training at [www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org).

**Step 2:** Attend the appropriate referee training class (see below).

The level of certification required to officiate matches depends on the age group you will support as a referee. The following table outlines the requirements:

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>Required Certification</b>	<b>Recommended Level</b>
U8	U8 Official	U8 Official
U10	Regional Referee (see below)	Regional Referee
U12	Regional Referee	Intermediate Referee
U14	Regional Referee, Intermediate Referee	Advanced Referee

U16, U19	Intermediate Referee	National Referee
----------	----------------------	------------------

**What if I am already certified?**

If you are already certified as a referee in another AYSO region or through another organization (e.g. USSF), please contact the Regional Referee Administrator [referee@rondoutsoccerclub.com](mailto:referee@rondoutsoccerclub.com) for assistance transferring your certification.  **How often do I need to take a class?**

Once you have completed the steps above, your certification at that level does not expire. It is the referee's responsibility to remain current on the Laws of the Game (LOTG) and we recommend attending an upgrade class every 2 to 3 years. This will keep you prepared and certified to the appropriate level as your child's skills advance into the upper age brackets. In addition, Region 965 holds a Referee Refresher training to kick off the season every year.

It is recommended that returning referees brush up on the LOTG by reviewing the online referee training course at [www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org) each year they don't attend another class.   **What is new this season?**

Come join a class or attend the Referee Refresher training for updates on the latest from FIFA and Region 965!   **How can I get support? Before the season? During the season?**

We want every referee to be successful and enjoy the experience.

Preparation is a significant factor in accomplishing this goal. You can also sign up for the AYSO weekly newsletter ([AYSO Whistle Stop](#)) which describes common situations and provides answers and explanations of the correct response. Please contact [referee@rondoutsoccerclub.com](mailto:referee@rondoutsoccerclub.com) with any questions or for more information including to request a mentor.

**At what level can youth referees officiate?**

Youth volunteers over age 10 make great role models as referees. Youth referees take the same training as adults and can officiate in the division up

to one below where they can be players. For example, a 12-year-old can officiate U8 or U10 matches.

**☐ I already know the laws. Now what?**

Come get Certified! We love it when people with knowledge of soccer join the referee ranks. The class will be easy if you are already familiar with the LOTG and you can ask your hardest questions and get support becoming a better referee.☐☐ **Why are classes so long?**

While FIFA has done an amazing job keeping the Laws of the Game simple and complete, there is still the challenge of understanding all of the ways the laws apply during a match. It takes about 8 hours to review the 17 Laws of the Game and to start applying them quickly in real situations. Upper-level training spends a lot more time on fouls and more complex situations that occur in upper level-matches. We appreciate that spending a full day in training is a significant time commitment so we offer the option to do half of the Regional Referee training at your own schedule online

([www.aysotraining.org](http://www.aysotraining.org)) coupled with less in-class time via the Basic Regional Online Referee course.   **What Equipment do I need?**

You supply shoes, a watch, and pen or pencil (also an equipment bag if you like). Region 965 provides a copy of the LOTG, a uniform, a whistle, cards, and coin for all who take the Regional class (U10 and up). Flags and game balls are shared for each field. For U8, the Region provides a shirt and a whistle. You provide shorts (preferably black) also. U8 doesn't use flags or cards.

**Where do I sign-up?**

See our [New Referees Page](#) for detailed instructions for registration. We look forward to seeing you in a class soon!