

Directions on how to register to become a USSF Certified Referee

New Referees

Step 1: Create a Profile at: *U.S. Soccer Referee Learning Center (LC)*.

- The unique account identifier is an email address. Parents may not use their lone email address to register multiple referees. Each referee needs their own email address. Parents may add a secondary email address to each account in order to receive any emails their child is receiving from either U.S. Soccer or the Alabama State Referee Committee. **As a reminder, individuals must be 14 years of age to referee in the state of Alabama. If turning 14 before February 1, 2020, individuals may still register for an entry level course and become certified, but they will not be able to referee until they turn 14.**
- A known issue while creating an account in the LC is a browser timeout. If this occurs for you, the U.S. Soccer recommended steps are to clear your browser history, cache, and cookies. Close your browser, and try again. Alternatively, try a different browser or device to create your account.
- If you already have an existing profile in the LC, log in using the same email address and password. You can navigate and create a referee profile from there. Please note that U.S. Soccer will need to support the merging of your referee data to your new profile in this circumstance. Contact referee@ussoccer.org to initiate this process.

Step 2: Register for an In-Person Grassroots Entry Course at: *U.S. Soccer Referee Learning Center*.

- After creating an account, the prospective referee must register for an in-person course in Alabama.
- Click Courses - Available Courses - Grassroots Courses - New Referee - In-Person Courses. Use the “Host” drop down menu to select “Alabama State Referee Committee” or the “Location” drop down to select “Alabama” to find a course near you. Courses are \$80. This cost

includes the USSF registration fees, Alabama registration fees, and the cost of the course.

- New courses in various locations are continually being added as local leagues and clubs request to host courses in their area.
- **100% of the Grassroots Online Course must be completed before attending the in-person course, and students must either print out their completion certificate and bring it with them to class or email the certificate to the course instructor ahead of time.** The grassroots online course is available in the “Assignments” tab after you register for an in-person course. The cost of the grassroots course is \$20. The estimated time to complete the course is 4.5-5 hours.
- In-person entry level courses are typically held from July through February. **Courses are not offered on or after March 1st.** In order to allow sufficient time for completing online requirements, **registration for all courses will close three days prior to the scheduled date of the course.** If all online requirements (Grassroots Referee Course, SafeSport Training, the Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments, and background check) are not completed prior to the date of the in-person course, candidates will be not be able to attend the in-person course and will be directed to attend a different in-person session at a later date.
- The in-person course is approximately 4 hours. The course is split between a two hour classroom session, and a two hour field training session that takes place outside on a field.
- Students should plan to attend the in-person course dressed appropriately for light, outdoor exercise. They should also bring the following with them: whistle, yellow/red cards, and a flag. This equipment can be purchased from **Official Sports**, the official supplier of U.S. Soccer referee uniforms and equipment.

Step 3: Safe Sport Certification (mandatory if 18 years of age or older)

- Access Code: YC3E-6P5G-YYIL-CS2M
- If you have already completed Safe Sport training, log in to your account, click on the menu in the top left corner, select “Update

Account”, change tab to “Profile”, scroll down and ensure that U.S. Soccer is listed under “Memberships”. If not, just add it.

- If you already have U.S. Soccer listed under memberships, Safe Sport certification will automatically migrate your information into the U.S. Soccer Learning Center by September.
- Safe Sport must be completed before attending the in-person course. The estimated completion time is 2-2.5 hours, and it is free of charge.
- Safe Sport is **Federal Law passed by the United States Congress** and is mandatory for anyone 18 years of age or older.

Step 4: Complete the U.S. Soccer NCSI Background Check (mandatory if 18 years of age or older)

- Available inside the Learning Center
- Valid for two years per check
- Mandatory for all referees 18 years of age or older
- Cost of the background check is \$30, once every two years.

Step 5: Download the IFAB Laws of the Game (LOTG).

- The LOTG are also available as an app on both Android and iOS. The LOTG can also be found under the “Resources” tab once your register for an in-person course.