

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REFEREEING FOR NORTHWEST SOCCER CLUB

Who manages the referees for Northwest?

The Director of Referees works on recruiting, education, scheduling and communication with the referees. Additionally, he is our Assignor and is in charge of building the referee schedule and assuring that games are fully staffed. The Director of Referees is at least a certified Grade 8 referee. Find our current contact information [here](#).

How do I get games?

The Assignor will set the Referee (“Center”) and Assistant Referees (“ARs”) for each game.

These are made in an on-line assignment application named Arbiter. The log-in for Arbiter is located [here](#). Make it a favorite, since you’ll likely be coming back to it frequently. Once the Assignor has set the schedule, Arbiter will send an email out for you to check your assignments. Log in to Arbiter to confirm the ones you can take and decline the ones that don’t work into your schedule. As other slots open up, this process repeats until a full crew is set for each game.

U8 games are assigned a Center only, but all other ages should have a full crew of Center and two Assistant Referees.

How do I get paid?

Referees are paid at the end of their games, either by the coach or a parent on the team. For U8, each team will pay half of the ref fee (see pay schedule below). For U10 and up, the home team pays the referee. In all cases, you **MUST** sign the referee pay sheet to indicate that you were paid.

If there are any issues with pay, call the Director of Referees or Assignor.

How much do I get paid?

Pay is set by the age level of the game reffed, according to the following schedule:

U8 Center \$16

U10 Center \$20/ARs \$10

U12 Center \$25/ARs \$15

U14 Center \$30/ARs \$20

U16 Center \$40/ARs \$25

U19 Center \$50/ARs \$30

How many games will I get?

The number of games assigned depends on the referee's age, number of available games, scheduling, and ultimately, on the referee's ability. The Assignor will try and schedule you for two games in a row when possible. In general, you may do 2-4 games per week, but that will vary. If you want additional assignments, watch the schedule (see link above) and contact the Assignor if any open slots work for you.

What ages can I ref?

New referees generally start as U10 Assistant Referees. Offsides is not monitored at U10, so this is a good chance to watch the Center manage the game. It's also important to learn the check-in process. The Center will be experienced and is a good resource for questions that come up at check-in or during the game. As you gain experience, you'll move to U8, where you'll be on your own to check-in the teams and manage the game. From there, you'll move to up through the age groups. You'll only ref games with younger players than you.

Adults and older players who become certified will still start as an Assistant Referee to learn from the Center, but possibly with older age groups.

Where do I get my referee equipment?

You can go to Soccer Connections and they will assemble a basic kit for you or go online to order. There are many colors of referee shirt, but get a yellow one first. Later, you can add other colors if desired. Keep your receipt. Once you have reffed 10 games for Northwest, you can submit that and the fee for certification (no receipt needed for that) for reimbursement. Just let the Director of Referees know once you've done 10 games for us.

Can people who are not certified ref games?

Every effort is made to assure we have certified referees covering all slots, both to assure that we have quality crews and to recognize the dedication of those folks in getting and maintaining their certification. But we allow people interested in reffing to be assistant referees for U10 and in some cases to be a center ref for U8 when we can't staff the games with certified referees.

Do I need to recertify?

YES, you do. You'll need to recertify annually to maintain your certification. This assures you're up on any rule changes and staying familiar with the laws. This may be done at a recertification clinic, generally held in the fall or by attending the Referee Academy, held in the spring. Another option is an on-line course. In any case, the recertification MUST be completed before December 31. Watch your email for notices about recertification courses, process, and deadlines. The club does not presently reimburse you for recertification expenses.

How do I register for the next year?

You need to complete the recertification component (class, on-line class, or Referee Academy), then register for the next year at www.iowareferees.org/. There is a recertification fee that you must pay upon registering. Northwest Soccer Club does not reimburse the recertification fee. The deadline to recertify for the following year is December 31st and you must register by then.