



AYSO Section One National Referee Assessment and Certification Policy and Procedures



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The Section One referee staff is committed to supporting our referees so that all players in Section One are provided with well-trained and experienced referees. In order to maintain consistency at the highest levels of officiating within the section, the following policies and procedures will be utilized for all upgrades to the National Referee level.

Assessment Policies and Procedures:

Prior to getting a National assessment it is highly recommended that the Region and/or Area referee staffs provide the candidate with one or more mentors, one of which should be a National Assessor. The mentoring experience helps prepare the candidate and has shown to improve the formal assessment experience.

All candidates applying for National Referee upgrade assessment must be a currently accepted AYSO volunteer (current year or immediately prior year) as reflected in eAYSO. All candidates must have a minimum of one year experience (time in grade) as a Section/Advanced Referee before their assessments for upgrade will be authorized.

The Section One National Referee upgrade assessment process is outlined in the five steps below. Each referee desiring upgrade to the National Referee level must follow the steps as outlined.

Step 1: A referee wishing to upgrade to the National Referee level must contact his/her Area Director of Referee Assessment (ADRA) to request each upgrade assessment. The referee must also line up at least one game (more games improve the chances of finding an available assessor) of the appropriate age group and length (see below) which will be available for the assessment and provide this information to the ADRA. To maximize the ADRA's probability of finding a suitable assessor, it is highly recommended that the candidate accomplish this step of the process at least two to three weeks prior to the desired assessment date. Any assessment involving another section or its assessors must have the prior approval of both the Section One Director of Referee Assessment (SDRA) and the involved section's SDRA.

Step 2: Upon receiving the candidate's request for an assessment, the ADRA shall timely contact the candidate's Regional Referee Administrator or Regional Director of Assessment to (a) determine if the candidate has received mentoring (as recommended above) and (b) obtain their view(s) on the probability the candidate will pass the assessment. These two items may be waived if the ADRA has personal knowledge of these facts but the information will, in any case, be relayed to the National Assessor assigned to perform the assessment. No one will refuse to schedule or indefinitely delay an assessment when one is requested.

The ADRA shall then contact and assign a qualified, AYSO certified National Assessor to one of the available games. The assessor must be on the list of Section One approved National Assessors unless he/she is from another section, in which case the assessor's SDRA must be contacted to verify the assessor's credentials. The individual assessor will decide whether one or two assessments may be done during a particular game, however, in no case will more than two be approved.

Game level and length: National Referee candidates shall be assessed on U19 90-minute games. A match shortened by no more than 5 minutes per half or a U16 match may be used for one of the assessments, but only with prior SDRA approval. These requests will be judged on a case-by-case basis. If requested by the candidate, a non-AYSO match of the equivalent age division (or higher) may be used for the assessment. The match must utilize the Diagonal System of Control and be of suitable duration as specified above. Assistant referees in a non-AYSO match are not required to be AYSO certified, but must be certified by the association having jurisdiction over the match (USSF, NISOA, CIF, etc.).

For referee assessments, the assessor must be from outside the candidate's home Area unless authorized by the SDRA prior to the assessment. Assistant referee assessments may be done by any approved National Assessor.

Each of the candidate's successful assessments must be performed by a different assessor. If a game is judged unsatisfactory (a rare event) or the candidate is recommended for further observation, the same assessor may be used for another assessment.

If the candidate's ADRA cannot timely locate an approved National Assessor directly, he/she is encouraged to contact ADRA's from neighboring areas or the SDRA to see if an approved assessor can be found.

Step 3: The ADRA must contact the SDRA (Gary Whitaker at gw@charter.net or 951-316-9789) to gain approval for the intended assessment. The SDRA will confirm that the game is of the appropriate length and that the assessor is from outside the candidate's area (if required) and is on the list of certified National Assessors. This approval must be obtained before the assessment takes place.

Step 4: After the SDRA has approved the scheduled assessment, the ADRA shall provide the candidate with the assessor's contact information and the candidate must contact the assessor directly to confirm the arrangements.

- If the candidate cannot keep the commitment as scheduled, he/she must contact the ADRA and the assessor immediately.
- If the assessor cannot keep the commitment as scheduled, he/she must contact the ADRA immediately so that an alternate assessor can be found. In this case, step 3 must be repeated.

Step 5: After the candidate has completed all of the requirements for upgrade, the candidate should follow one of the following procedures:

Option #1 - (Recommended) Scan a copy of the completed application and e-mail it to the SDRA at gw@charter.net; or

Option #2 - Make a copy of the completed application and send the original to the SDRA (Gary Whitaker, 283 S. Hudson #6, Pasadena, CA 91101).

The SDRA will timely verify the application and forward it to the AYSO National Office.

Guidelines for Submitting the AYSO Application for Referee Certification

Candidates for upgrade to National Referee must have:

- A minimum of one year experience (time in grade) as a Section/Advanced Referee before their assessments for upgrade will be authorized
- Completed the following upgrade requirements within the three years prior to submitting their application:
 - Each of the three assessments
 - National Referee examination
 - Fitness Test

Candidates should complete the National Referee course, written examination, and physical fitness test prior starting the assessment process. Although not mandatory, prior completion of these requirements significantly improves the chances of the assessments being successful.

APPROVED: _____
Rick Roberts
Section Referee Administrator – Section One