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Thank you for your interest in becoming a certified soccer referee. There are a couple of eligibility requirements that must be met:

1. Applicants must be at least 13 years of age at the time of registration.
2. Applicants who are not U.S. citizens must have documentation to work in the U.S.

Please read all instructions carefully! Referees must meet the requirements of different controlling bodies. Several steps are required for registration, both to provide sufficient training and to create a safe environment for all involved. We've tried to make it as easy as possible, but it still takes more time than we would like. **These steps must be completed in order.** This document is an introduction and will direct you to instructions for each step. Keep this document for future reference!

NOTE: A schedule of in-person classes (Step 3) may not be available until the end of the year because of facility limitations. These classes are generally held between January and April. Please complete Steps 1 and 2 immediately – so that you can reserve a spot when in-person classes are scheduled. You can't reserve an in-person spot until the other steps are completed.

**Step 1:** Register with the U.S. Soccer Learning Center and complete required online training. There is no charge at this step.

- A. Complete U.S. Soccer's required online training for new referees. This training will take approximately 4.5 hours and need not be completed in one sitting. **NOTE: The instructions linked below contain a direct link to this course. You will need to use that link to open the course.**
- B. All referees must complete the "Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments" (often referred to as "Intro to Safety") training. This takes approximately 45 minutes.
- C. Referees aged 18 and older must complete SafeSport Training, which takes approximately 1.5 hours. If your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is in 2024, we highly recommended you complete SafeSport training since it will be required on the day you turn 18.

**These sessions are completed online at the Learning Center. All required sessions must be completed before moving on to Step 2. The instructions can be downloaded in either Word or PDF format.**

[Click here for Word format.](#)

[Click here for PDF format.](#)

**Step 2:** (NOTE: We strongly recommend that you complete the requirements at the Learning Center – from Step 1 above – BEFORE you create an account in OMS.) Create an Officials Management System (OMS) account and complete local training modules. OMS is the system that the Western New York State Referees Association uses for registration, online training, and online testing.

Need help? Contact Tom Ross ([sdi@wnyreferee.org](mailto:sdi@wnyreferee.org)) or Michael Tata ([sra@wnyreferee.org](mailto:sra@wnyreferee.org)).

When you create this account, you will pay your registration fee of \$85.00. This includes \$40 for U.S. Soccer Registration and \$45 course fee. You will also have the option to purchase a uniform starter kit – information will be provided in the instructions for this step.

- A. Applicants will complete several online training modules. These modules are designed to determine the referee candidate's knowledge of the Laws of the Game. Each module takes about 15 to 30 minutes. You must complete each module in one sitting, but you may complete a module and return to complete others later. **CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON COMPLETING THE ONLINE MODULES.**
- B. **After you have completed the online modules**, you will be able to select an in-person session. Most in-person sessions are held between January and April. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to see the schedule – bookmark it if you think you will need to check again later. When you are ready to create your OMS account, complete your local training modules, and select your in-person class, choose one of the below options.

**[CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON COMPLETING THE ONLINE MODULES AND SELECTING AN IN-PERSON CLASS IN OMS](#)**

**Step 3:** Attend an in-person training session.

You will choose your in-person session in Officials Management System after you complete the online material. Please note – in-person classes are generally held between January and April, and the schedule may not appear until December. You can click the link given below at any time to check the status of the schedule. The in-person session will last approximately six hours and classes are usually scheduled on a weekend. You may attend any of the available sessions. [Click here](#) for a list of in-person training dates and locations.

**Step 4:** Risk Management / Background Check

In order to officiate youth matches, you must be cleared through NYSWYSA risk management process. Information on this can be found by click on this link: [Risk Management Information](#)

Any questions about the application process must be directed to the Risk Management coordinator. Contact by clicking on this link: [RM Coordinator](#)

Specific instructions on the application process can be found here: [RM Instructions](#)

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