

**Criteria for Certifying and Upgrading
Referee**

Criteria	Referee Grade 8	Referee Grade 7
Minimum age	None – state associations may set minimum age	17
Experience (minimum cumulative career affiliated outdoor games at designated level)	Not applicable	Referee: 75 Assistant Referee: 25
Game level to be counted for advancement	Not applicable	U.S. Soccer Federation Games
Time in present grade	Not applicable	12 months as Referee Grade 8
Training course requirements	Successfully complete U.S. Soccer Referee Training Course (or the Referee Bridge Course to upgrade from 9 to 8)	5 hours of U.S. Soccer Intermediate Level Training above normal recertification clinics, i.e. intermediate, advanced, regional/ pro clinics.
Written Examination	75% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Referee Exam	85% minimum score on U.S. Soccer Referee Exam
Field Evaluation by currently registered U.S. Soccer Assessor	Not required. It is recommended that new referees be observed in one of their first 10 games.	Pass one evaluation as referee in an affiliated Under-17 or higher level game employing the DSC
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Required (with passing score)
Annual Renewal Requirements		
In-Service Training	Five hours during the preceding 12 months	Five hours during the preceding 12 months
Refresher Exam	Passing Score of 75% Required	Passing Score of 85% Required
Field Evaluation	Not required	1 developmental assessment, at any level designated by the state (U-17 or higher recommended), <i>if adopted by state</i>
Physical Fitness Test	Not required	Required (with passing score)