



**THE REFEREE
ADVOCATES**

COMPETITIVE REFEREE PROGRAM FAQS



• WHO IS THIS PROGRAM FOR?

Anyone that is 13 years of age or older and interested in becoming a referee. You must obtain USSF certification prior to working league and tournament games. You **must be** at least 13 years old when you create an account and obtain your USSF license.

• WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS TO JOIN THIS PROGRAM?

You have two options to join the program at our club. Each option will allow you to work league games in our community and throughout the state.

OPTION 1) Join TRA Fast Track TRA offers a team-like structure to support you in the early stages of your referee journey. Register and pay the fee inside our club's platform. Each year there are limited spots available. Reach out to the TRA Competitive Referee Program Manager for more information.

OPTION 2) Traditional USSF Certification Track Obtain your USSF license through the U.S. Soccer Learning Center and reach out to TRA to get onboarded for game assignments.

• WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT?

OPTION 1) The cost of the TRA Fast Track varies based on your situation, so check with TRA for current cost structure. Registration includes a new referee kit, referee guidebook, a Referee Advocate (coach), and game assigning strategy sessions. We will also reimburse you for the certification fee of \$60 if you work 10 or more games for our club.

OPTION 2) The cost to obtain your USSF license is \$60. If you're 18+ you will need to do an annual background check \$30. You will also need to purchase your own referee gear (jersey, socks, shorts, whistle, cards, flags, watch) that costs around \$75-\$125.

• DO I NEED TO RENEW MY LICENSE EVERY YEAR?

Yes. Every year your license will expire on 12/31 and you will need to renew your license to learn new law changes. The license renewal window opens in August every year, so you have plenty of time to complete this. We highly encourage referees to get this done early each year!

STEPS TO OBTAINING YOUR USSF LICENSE

STEP 1

Follow the [MNSRC step-by-step instructions](#) to create an account and register in the U.S. Soccer Learning Center.

STEP 2

Complete the online training modules at least 24 hours prior to attending the in-person course (first-time referees only).

STEP 3

Attend the in-person course that you registered for.

STEP 4

Pass the online quiz in the U.S. Soccer Learning Center and get your license!



CONTACT TRA

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• IS THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES I NEED TO WORK?

You can do as many or as little as your schedule and body allows. We typically advise new referees to work 10+ games within the first two months of the season. If you are a part of the TRA Fast Track, you will get reimbursed for your license fee of \$60 after working 10 games for our club. It takes many games to get comfortable as a new referee and the longer you wait to apply the knowledge you obtained with your license, the harder it can be. We also ask referees to manage their own workload in a healthy way to decrease the likelihood of injury or burn out.

• DO I HAVE TO BE A CENTER REFEREE?

No. You are free to choose what position best suits your comfortability. We do ask everyone to challenge themselves and choose games that will help you develop and progress your skills as a referee. Of note, there is a pay difference between Center and Assistant Referee so often referees do choose to toggle between positions.

• CAN I WORK WHATEVER GAMES I WANT?

Yes and no. We utilize a self-assigning system where you get to choose your games based on your availability, age and skill level. You will not be able to select games that don't make sense for your development level. You also may not work games where there is a clear conflict of interest, i.e. your sibling's games.

• HOW MUCH WILL I GET PAID?

Referee pay rates are determined by each home club or tournament you work for, thus rates will vary. TRA clubs are closely aligned with their pay scales based on current market value and the range is from \$35-\$85+ per game, depending on your position and the level of game.

• WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE AS A NEW REFEREE?

We partner with TRA to provide a positive referee experience for every referee that works our club's games. You will be provided support, training, and a positive game environment as you grow and develop your referee skills.

• CAN I WORK FOR OTHER CLUBS?

Yes! While we encourage you to work as many games in our system as your schedule allows, we also know that it's important to get experience elsewhere. If you cannot find games with us that fit your schedule, the TRA team will help you navigate the process of finding friendly, easy-to-work-with assignors to ensure you are continuing to have a good experience beyond our club!



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