

## 2023 Grassroots “New” Referee Course Instructions

New Grassroots Referee courses are being offered by the Wisconsin Soccer Referee Development Program (WisRef) for 2023 registration for a 2023 USSF Grassroots Referee license expiring 12/31/2023. The successful Referee candidate will have the opportunity to officiate games for the spring, summer and fall 2023 calendar year soccer seasons.

This course is for new, first time Referees that have not been previously registered as a Referee **OR** a previously registered Referee who has had a lapse in registration (2020 or prior lapse). Minimum age per US Soccer policy is 13 years old at the time of registering for the course.

WisRef & the WYSA have partnered in order to encourage players, parents, coaches and others to become a New Referee. WYSA is providing reimbursement of registration, course fees and background check fees for New or Lapsed Registration Referees who successfully complete the requirements to become a US Soccer Referee for the 2023 registration period. Additionally, WYSA will also fund a 10-piece Referee Uniform Kit **IF** you complete ALL of the requirements including the In-Person Classroom/On-Field session or Virtual session by 12/31/2022.

What do these two organizations ask in return? We ask that you commit to refereeing all of 2023 and registering again for 2024 at a minimum. We would also hope that you continue in 2025 and beyond.

Many clubs and districts also provide additional Referee incentives, for a minimum number of games worked in a season or other requirements. You will need to work with your local games Assignor for more information on those programs.

We hope to see you in a New Referee course and on the fields in 2023!

### **This is a 12 Hour Course**

8 hours online US Soccer Learning Center course work (on your own)

Creation of a WisRef GameOfficials account

4 hours WisRef In-Person session (either Classroom/On-Field session or Virtual online Zoom session) (with Instructors)

After successful completion of the above, you will be registered as a new 2023 Grassroots Referee.

### **Steps to Register as a 2023 USSF Grassroots Referee**

WisRef utilizes 2 platforms. Registration and learning are within the US Soccer Learning Center. Game assignments, after completing all requirements, will be in the WisRef GameOfficials platform. Steps, to be completed fully and in order:

1. Create a Referee profile in the US Soccer Learning Center: <https://learning.ussoccer.com/>. This profile or account is for the Referee, not the parent. Full name & mailing address is required; the name, address & primary email should be exactly the same as will be input into GameOfficials. Please note that school email addresses are sometimes problematic, so should be avoided.

Directions: <https://ussoccerfederation.force.com/lcsupport/s/article/Sign-Up-for-an-Account>

If you are 18 or older, you will be prompted to pay for and complete a 2-year background check and complete the SafeSport module. If you turn 18 during the course process or during a registration period, you will be required to complete the background check and SafeSport in order to continue refereeing during the seasons.

<https://ussoccerfederation.force.com/lcsupport/s/article/How-to-find-and-sign-up-for-a-course-in-the-Learning-Center>

2. After you create your account, pay the \$70 US Soccer 2023 registration fee and WisRef course fee. Register in the following course: **2023 New Grassroots Referee - Assignment Course**

3. Complete all US Soccer Learning Center required assignments in the following pathway: **Courses/My Courses/Go to Classroom/Assignments**. Remember to log out if you take a break from the training and **continually save your progress**. Chromebooks are not always compatible, may not load, save, or display properly, and may be incompatible with the Zoom program required later, henceforth, Chromebooks are not recommended.

4. Set up a GameOfficials account for game assignments in the **WisRef** GameOfficials assigning platform: <https://wisref.gameofficials.net> (use this link). This account is for the Referee, not the parent. **Full name & mailing address** is required; the name, address & primary email should be exactly the same as was input into the Learning Center. Please note that school email addresses are sometimes problematic, so should be avoided. There will not be any course work completed in GameOfficials (GO). GameOfficials is only for game assignments once you have been registered as a referee.

5. After completing steps 1 through 4, notify [sue@wisref.org](mailto:sue@wisref.org) to choose a date/time to attend a WisRef Classroom/On-Field session (“Field”) or a Virtual online Zoom session (“Virtual”). You will be able to pick a session date and time from the list in her email reply **once we have them finalized**. Session dates/times will be listed in the course details when you register **once we have them finalized**.

\* The Field or Virtual session time of 4 hours is 100% accurate. Referee candidates are required to be actively present and participate for the entire session. These sessions meet US Soccer requirements and failure to be present for the entire session will result in full attendance not being granted and your certification will not be processed.

\*Signing up for the Field or Virtual session will be available **after** you complete the required Learning Center assignments and have created your WisRef Game Officials account - steps 1

through 4 above. **You cannot reserve a spot for the Classroom/On-Field or Virtual session until you complete these steps.** *Requesting an In-Person date before all steps above are completed will not generate a response.* If a Field or Virtual session is near capacity, there are no guarantees that slots will be available by the time you finish steps 1 through 4. We strongly encourage Referee candidates to complete their assignments in the Learning Center well in advance of the Field or Virtual session they wish to attend. We reserve the right to cancel any scheduled Field or Virtual session for low attendance numbers. Referee Candidates will then be able to choose another date/time to attend.

\* The deadline for choosing the Field or Virtual session is **48 hours** before the start of the session. WisRef requires course rosters to be set by this deadline. Please be diligent if you desire a session for a particular date and time.

6. Attend the selected Field or Virtual session. The Field session will start in the classroom and may move outdoors for training so please dress accordingly. Both the Field and Virtual sessions are interactive, and require active participation from all candidates. For Virtual sessions, Instructors must be able to see and hear you throughout the Virtual session. Video **MUST** be on at all times and you must have the ability to mute/un-mute your microphone. There is a maximum of one referee per electronic device - no sharing, and attendance needs to be in a stationary, unobstructed, quiet environment and not in a vehicle of any kind, whether moving or stationary.

7. Once you pass all the requirements, you will be certified by the State Referee Administrator as a 2023 USSF Grassroots Referee. Your 2023 Referee badge will be mailed to you and you will be enabled in the WisRef GameOfficials platform for game assignments. Take this opportunity to make sure your mailing address is correct and consistent in both the US Soccer Learning Center and the WisRef GameOfficials. You will only receive one 2023 badge, so please be careful with it.

The December Classroom/On-Field & Virtual sessions are:

December 3 | 8:00am - 12:00pm | Classroom/On-Field Milwaukee  
December 11 | 8:00am - 12:00pm | Classroom/On-Field Madison  
December 17 | 8:00am - 12:00pm | Virtual

If demand warrants, an additional Virtual(s) may be added.

Reminder per 5. above, you must have steps 1. through 4. completed **prior** to requesting a Field or Virtual session.