



AYSO Region 7 Team Referee Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

General:

What are the "Team Referee Requirements"? Why do we have to provide a referee?

The demand for volunteers to certify as referees is greater than the Region's Referee Staff's ability to meet otherwise. Therefore, the Region requires teams playing in the Fall to have one volunteer help referee the season, using the regional play-offs as incentive.

Now, with the growth of Spring, All-Stars, and EXTRA, the Referee Staff has revised the requirement policy to encompass all seasons of AYSO soccer.

What are the requirements to be a Region 7 referee?

You must be an adult, or a youth 12 years or older; you must be trained and certified as a Basic referee or higher; you must be up-to-date on your Safe Haven certification; you must be registered as a volunteer for the current year; and your coach will need to submit a Team Referee Declaration Form for the appropriate season or program.

Could a Region 7 referee officiate inter-regional games?

Directors of the inter-regional programs may have other requirements beyond those of Region 7 (e.g., badge level). As with Fall, though, the Regional Referee Administrator has the final decision whether a referee may officiate inter-regional games. Your team's referee is responsible for meeting any additional requirements of these programs.

Does a Region 7 referee have to be an adult?

Your referee can be a Youth Referee. The minimum age to be an AYSO referee is 12 years. The Referee Staff encourages all players to consider training and certifying as Youth Referees.

Can a Youth Referee volunteer for games at any level?

A Youth Referee can only volunteer for games where the players are at least two years younger than he or she is (e.g., a 12-year-old YR can only referee at the U10 level).

Does our referee have to be a relative of one of the players on the team?

Provided your referee does not represent any other teams, he or she can be a friend or a neighbor--anyone who wishes to help.

What if our referee is also representing another team?

In that case, your referee must be related to a player on each of the teams he or she is representing. That can be a parent or other relative, including siblings; it can be either blood relatives (by birth) or step-relatives (by marriage).



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Fall Season:

How does our team qualify for our regional play-offs?

Regardless of standings at the end of the regular season, a U10, U12, or U14 team can participate in our regional play-offs if its referee has earned the required points during the regular season.

Why does Fall season use a point system? It seems confusing.

One goal of the Referee Staff is to have full crews on all U8-U14 games in the Fall season, the Region's busiest. Another goal is to build a corps of referees who look to gain experience, and to encourage further development.

The point system is merely a way of tracking each referee's progress toward meeting the play-off participation requirements. It also allows the Referee Staff to weight the system to reward more participation and education.

How many points does our referee have to earn and how can points be earned?

Your referee must earn a minimum of 15 points officiating regular season matches involving at least one Region 7 team, or regular season EXTRA matches where Region 7 has been assigned to provide referees. A Referee assignment earns one point, whether as the center referee or an assistant referee.

Further, three of the points must be earned by completing three center referee assignments, and three points must be earned by completing three assistant referee assignments in the U10 or above divisions.

In addition, your referee must be available for one game during each round your team plays in the regional play-offs.

What other ways can our referee earn points?

Your referee can earn two points by either completing his or her initial training as a Basic Referee, or completing the requirements for an upgrade during the season. He or she can earn one point just by attending the "kick-off" meeting for referees at the beginning of the season. Also, the Referee Staff has additional training/review sessions, and your referee can attend to earn one point for each of those sessions. Your referee will be notified when those are scheduled.

Can our team have more than one referee earning points for our team?

Yes, but only with the approval of the Regional Referee Administrator. They may pool their points to meet your team's requirement of 15 points. However, each referee must still complete both the three center and three assistant referee assignments.



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Our team has a referee, but he wasn't trained in this region. Is that okay?

Yes, provided the Regional Referee Administrator can verify that your referee has been trained and certified (including Safe Haven) as an AYSO referee. Also, your referee will need to register as a volunteer at www.eayso.org, then complete, sign, and submit two copies of their volunteer form to the Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate (CVPA).

Our referee has earned over 15 points, but only completed two center referee assignments. Does our team still make the regional play-offs?

Regardless of the total number of points earned, your referee must earn three of those points by completing three center referee assignments.

What if our referee completed his three center referee assignments, but not his assistant referee assignments?

The same holds true for the three assistant referee assignments as well. Both sets of assignments must be completed in order for your team to make the regional play-offs.

What if our referee is unable to complete his center referee assignments?

Exemptions due to a referee's circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and approved by the Regional Referee Administrator.

Our referee is very busy. Can he earn all his points in one weekend?

Your referee may only earn up to four points per game day (i.e., any day, Sunday through Saturday, when the Region has games scheduled).

Is that four points for each of the teams our referee represents?

It is four points per game day, no matter how many teams your referee represents.

Can our team get points from another team's referee?

Only the referee your team declares at the start of the season can earn points for your team.

Can our referee earn points doing our own game?

Your referee cannot schedule himself or herself to do your team's own games.

What if no referee shows up to do our game, what then?

As long as both coaches agree, your referee can do your game and earn one point. The Referee Staff encourages referees to always bring their uniform to the fields.



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What about being an assistant referee for our game?

The exception applies only to the center referee position. Your referee cannot earn points as an assistant referee in your game. The Region is unable to provide assistant referees at every game, so the Referee Staff must fill all center referee assignments first.

Assistant referee assignments are for other than your own game, and begin with the U14 level. When all U14 assistant referee assignments are filled, then U12 assignments will be made available, etc. Exceptions are for Youth Referees, and where the Referee Staff has decided a referee is not ready to assist at a particular level of play or isn't the required age.

Does the Referee Staff schedule the games so our referee can earn enough points?

Your referee is responsible for scheduling his or her own games. Scheduling is done online, and the Referee Staff will explain to your referee how to do this.

How does our team know how many points our referee has earned?

Point totals will be posted on Region 7's website at www.ayso7.org after the three center and three assistant referee assignments have been completed.

Is there any way our team can get an exception to providing a referee, and still participate in the regional play-offs?

There can be no exceptions to this policy. However, the policy is designed to make it possible for every team to be able to participate in the regional play-offs.

If your team parents are all volunteering in other capacities, you can recruit a sibling, step-parent, friend--anyone to represent your team. If someone volunteers, but cannot take the referee class in Region 7, it is available in neighboring regions (as long as your referee has declared by the beginning of the season).

All games, though, are on a first come-first serve basis; referees are not guaranteed games. The longer your referee delays in training and/or scheduling games, the less likely it will be your referee will be able to earn enough points.

However, if your referee expects to be short one or two points by the end of the season, he or she can contact the Regional Referee Administrator who will work with him or her to try and get the necessary points.

The only way your team could fail meet these requirements is by not trying.



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Spring Season, All-Stars, EXTRA:

Why do Fall teams only have to provide one referee, but the others have to provide a full crew?

Again, the demands of providing inter-regional play mean asking for a full crew from each team.

If our referees are already certified, why does the Regional Referee Administrator have to approve them?

Although AYSO is open to children and youths of any skill level, Spring, All-Stars, and EXTRA draw on the best players in Area D. The higher skill level of these players requires more experienced referees officiating the games. The Regional Referee Administrator wants to be certain that all Region 7 referees are capable of handling the level of play before allowing them to officiate any inter-regional game.

EXTRA teams in U9 and U10 only have to provide two referees. Why the exemption for those teams?

EXTRA U9 and U10 team rosters are smaller than those in the other programs which might make it difficult for the team to fulfill this requirement.

However, this exemption is not automatic; it will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and must be approved by both the Regional Referee Administrator and the Regional EXTRA Program Director.

Does the Referee Staff schedule the game assignments?

Your referee is responsible for scheduling his or her own games. Scheduling is done online, and the Referee Staff will explain to your referee how to do this.

Can our referee officiate our own game?

Your referee cannot schedule himself or herself to do your team's own games.

What if no referee shows up to do our game, what then?

As long as both coaches agree, your referee can do your game. The Referee Staff encourages referees to always bring their uniform to the fields.

However, your referee must be, at a minimum, a Basic Referee. A referee certified only as an Assistant Referee cannot officiate the game as a center referee.