



*Massachusetts Youth Soccer
Massachusetts State Referee Committee*

**GRASSROOTS
REFEREE
PROGRAM**

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Components

- **Program Pre-work**
- **Participant Pre-work**
- **Classroom session(s)**
- **On-field training/mentoring**
- **Progression/Assessment**
- **Other**

Program Pre-work

- Local Facilitator (LF)** and **State Program Director (SPD)** or delegate (**District Program Director/DPD**) meets/communicates with **Town/Club (TC)** to define administrative roles, identify Age/Grade Groups/frequency for training opportunities and applicable Local Rules of Competition are documented. Classroom facility and class schedule set. Uniform/equipment requirements, vendor, cost and responsibility determined.
- LF with SPD/DPD guidance and approval modifies curriculum resources to meet needs of TC competition, provides standardized format Local Rules of Competition for distribution and inclusion in curriculum. Develops and documents Local Advice to Referees, Administrative document and Local Mentor form. (Samples attached)
- TC manages communication to eligible players in their organization and administers registration. Recommended currently registered players in grades 6-8; ages 12-14. Recommended class size 12 with maximum of 20.
- TC educates coaches as to purpose and expectations of program and referee performance as well as what is expected from team coaches.
- TC arranges for participants to have whistles for class. These can be supplied by TC, or required of individuals.
- Begin mentor identification process (TC, LF, SPD, DPD) and orientation/training.

Participant Pre-work

- Fulfill any applicable TC registration and eligibility requirements.
- Review Laws of the Game Made Easy book and/or local rules distributed in advance.

Educational Session(s)

- Recommended 2-4 hours total, may be split between classroom and on field (*4 hours represents maximum recommended and should be scaled to meet TC facilities, requirements*)

and opportunities. Possibility of splitting into 2 sessions of 2 hours each is preferable to maintain attention and focus of participants; may be adjusted based on town/club desired content) reviewing LOTG and Local Rules, incorporating practicum (whistle use, signals, situation management, presentation and professionalism)

B. Classroom Curriculum Resources-

1. USSF Grade 9 PowerPoint presentation
2. Laws of the Game Made Easy booklet
3. Local Rules of Competition
4. Local Advice to Referees document
5. Local Administrative Information document
6. Knowledge Check

C. Preferred Facility/Equipment Requirements

1. Classroom or conference room of appropriate size and privacy
2. Laptop/projector/smartboard/display (desired, may be replaced with hard copy materials). Tables/desks desirable but not required.
3. Easy access, appropriate restroom facilities, preferably food/snacks/drinks allowed.

D. Training Syllabus (*sample 4 hour session attached; may be edited/adjusted to reflect Local Rules instruction, and/or portions shifted to preliminary onfield education*)

E. Authorized LF leads class with a second LF or other TC official.

F. Recommend inclusion of mentors and/or distinct 1-2 hour mentor orientation session and discussion of mentor form.

On-field Training and Mentoring

A. Peer Mentors are Grade 8 certified over the age of 14 with referee experience, but local adults/Board members/Coaches may be used contingent upon additional training.

B. Trainees should be assigned to lowest/youngest possible level of play to start, then progress to higher/older levels if available (and based on trainees' progress with a time limitation – factoring trainee age).

C. Trainees should be assigned in pairs (Peer Referees) alternating throughout the match and accompanied by a Peer Mentor at each field for at least 2-4 weeks.

D. A qualified adult mentor/advisor/referee/assignor must oversee each site.

E. Trainees receive ongoing feedback from mentors and peers during match, specifically at changeover and half time or other period breaks as well as postgame. Feedback should be based on categories and specifics identified on Local Mentor Form.

F. Hi level observations, progress and concerns should be reported to LF and/or TC administrator weekly (or monthly) regarding peer mentor and trainee performance.

Progression/Assessment

- A. Trainees ready for greater challenges identified for assignment to higher level training matches.
- B. Trainees needing additional experience at current level are identified.
- C. Trainees to be considered for certification identified, discussed, and recommended to MSRC for age waiver If required.
- D. Trainees attaining minimum Grade 8 age, or those of age completing at least one season of training, are offered an alternate path to USSF Grade 8 Certification waiving classroom course requirements contingent upon completion of USSF online modules and the positive recommendation resulting from 2 on field evaluations.
- E. Identify future peer mentors

Other

- A. Uniform/Kits/Equipment- TC determines what is required and who is responsible for obtaining (TC supplied, TC subsidized, participant responsibility, TC/State group purchase, combination). Minimum requirement is whistle, wristwatch, and distinct t-shirt/jersey. Options and recommendations for bulk/discounted equipment purchases will be provided by Mass Youth.
- B. Mentor and trainee compensation including alternative methods to be set by TC. Local Facilitator rates to be contracted independently by each TC.
- C. Conduct one hour refresher seasonally or annually for returning trainees to review their questions, present areas of improvement based on mentor/coach feedback and optionally present Law 6 for potential Assistant referees at TC or low league level.

Contacts

Elie Nassif - MSRC Referee Development and Mentoring Director, State GRP Co-Director

elienassif@massref.net

Jeff Chambers- Mass Youth Board Liaison, State GRP Co-Director

jsc_soccer@hotmail.com

Janet Gargan- MSRC Referee Development Advisor, GRP Facilitator

jlgsoccer@hotmail.com