



Idaho Youth Soccer Association is excited to announce the formation of the Referee Development Program (RDP).

This program was created in response to the growing need for more referees and to address the ongoing struggle to retain already certified referees. Starting this fall, you will begin to see some of these changes.

The first change you will notice will be the appearance of the new referee uniform, approved for use at all Idaho Youth Soccer Association matches. Idaho Youth Soccer Association recognizes that cost is often a barrier to some who want to become a United States Soccer Federation Referee. Idaho Youth Soccer Association is working together with the Idaho Soccer Referee Committee to help remove cost as the barrier to participation. As a first step, Idaho Youth Soccer Association will provide all newly certified referees with a uniform shirt at no cost. In addition, all existing referees will also receive this uniform shirt at a discounted rate to add to their uniform kit.) This program has already started its roll out.



Idaho Youth Soccer Association is in the process of finalizing details for the New Referee Mentor program, its efforts will be primarily focused on providing the tools and support needed to help retain referees. This program is the second part of the RDP. This program will focus on small sided games and beginning referees. Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) will train and assign New Referee Mentors to serve as a resource to new referees. These Mentors will provide guidance to the new referees and help enforce the Idaho Youth Soccer Association Referee Abuse Policy. These New Referee Mentors will be identified by a credential on a lanyard. This program will be rolled out in mid-September.

In further retention efforts, the Idaho Youth Soccer Association Referee Development program is working with the Idaho Soccer Referee Committee to increase training opportunities for ALL referees. Field sessions as well as online learning options are being developed for statewide implementation. The first of these learning opportunities will be rolled out in mid-late September. This is the third part of the RDP.

In the 4th and final part of the RDP, IYSA Technical staff are evaluating the rules of competition statewide to assess how they can modify them to set the referees up for success and foster an environment of learning and good sportsmanship. We have connected with other states in our region for best practices and new ideas to broaden the resources we have available to us.

We hope you will join us in supporting the referee program to help our children have a safe and fun environment in all their Idaho Youth Soccer Association games. #equalgame

If interested in becoming a certified referee: Please click on this link for more info and to sign up for a training course near you. <https://idahosoccerrefs.org/become-a-referee/>

