



**Ohio South State
Referee Committee
(OSSRC)**

REFEREE

ACADEMY

PROGRAMS

**Roadmap to
Referee Success**

www.ossrc.com

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REFEREE ACADEMY PROGRAM

The Referee Academy Program consists of three different and distinct referee academy levels—Youth, Advanced, and Pro. Each level is specifically designed to help referees improve their officiating skills and assist in progressing up the referee ladder. Additionally, there is a special academy program for female referees.



YOUTH REFEREE ACADEMY

The Youth Referee Academy program is open to all officials regardless of grade level and experience but is primarily targeted at Grade 8 and Grade 7 officials looking to improve.

Youth academies are held annually at several different youth tournaments located in the three major districts of Ohio South. Attendees will be selected based upon formal application and available space.

The format for these academies is that the participants referee a field at a tournament for

the entire weekend (typically through preliminary rounds). The participants work both as assistant referees and referees. After each game, the entire referee team is given brief constructive feedback from mentors who have watched the game. The mentors are assessors, instructors and experienced referees.

This academy program is used to identify Advanced Referee Academy candidates and to identify potential Youth Referee of the Year candidates. It is a recommended pathway for any referee seeking upgrade from Grade 8 to Grade 7.

WOMEN'S REFEREE ACADEMY

This program is ran by women for women to address their unique challenges in a male-dominant world of soccer officiating. Attendees will be selected based upon formal application and available space with a focus on mentoring and improvement.

ADVANCED REFEREE ACADEMY

The Advanced Referee Academy program is specifically targeted at new State Referees and Grade 7 officials preparing to upgrade.

State level matches require higher-level fitness, deeper understanding of player and game management, and understanding of the subtleties of the game required to be an effective State Referee. To help prepare referees in this transition from youth to adult matches, OSSRC has created this academy.

The format for this academy program includes the traditional on-field instruction supplemented with complementary classroom instruction. Successful “graduation” from this academy may require participation in more than one event.

The on-field instruction for the Advanced Referee Academy is held at several different tournaments around the State involving high intensity, upper level matches. The feedback while more intense is still intended to bring out the best in your officiating.

The classroom sessions are very interactive and targeted at common issues identified during the on-field sessions. These sessions are also directed to help the referee transition from this academy to the Pro Referee Academy.

This academy is by invitation only and is used to identify Pro Referee Academy candidates. It is a recommended pathway for referees seeking to upgrade from Grade 7 to Grade 6.

PRO REFEREE ACADEMY

The Pro Referee Academy is managed by active Ohio South National Referees and is by invitation only. This is an on-going program similar to the Advanced Academy but even more intense, including monthly classroom training, weekly fitness training, and tournament events.

Importantly, the referees invited to this program have to be ready to receive this upper level material. Therefore, the attendees are typically State Referees.

The classroom sessions are extremely interactive and utilize a lot video material and materials from the MLS Week in Review, Regional Pro Clinics, etc. The students are expected to drive the training and the learning.

The on-field work is similar to the other academy events but it involves State and National assessors and referees as mentors. The events are hand-picked to include high-level youth and adult matches. Additionally, the mentors will attend matches as a mentor for the participants when they obtain challenging matches.

Fitness training is ongoing and critical to the success of the students. The participants work out in a manner similar to National Referees and are expected to work on their fitness outside the academy events, as well.

This program demands that the participants give back to the soccer community. Many members of this academy act as instructors and mentors at Youth and Advanced Referee Academies. Several are coaches for youth teams or simply share their newfound wisdom and insights at the referee tent.



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