

Questions & Answers about Soccer Referees.

1. What referees does the Grand Junction Soccer Club need?

Teams provide volunteers for U5 – U8 games, and team volunteer linespersons assist club-assigned center referees in officiating U9 & U10 games. Additionally, the club hires officials certified by the United States Soccer Federation for U11-U18 youth games plus adult games. Sometimes teams hire certified referees to fill-in for their volunteer referee when the volunteer is not available for a game.

2. Who can be a referee?

The two requirements are that you attend a training class and that you are physically able to keep up with play at whatever level you desire to officiate. No previous soccer experience is needed. Several types of classes are offered in order to reduce the time needed to obtain the necessary training. Team volunteers are trained for their specific age group (different class for various age groups) in a 2 ½ hour session. Recreational (Grade 9) Referees attend a 9-hour class. A Grade 9 Referee can upgrade to Grade 8 by attending a 9-hour Bridge Clinic after a year of experience. Alternatively, a new referee may become a Grade 8 Referee by attending a 17-hour Entry Level Course rather than the Grade 9 Clinic. **New age requirements state that a new referee 11-13 must attend the Grade 9 Clinic (minimum age is 11), and the minimum age to attend the Grade 8 Clinic is 14.** Certified referees may also serve as team volunteers or be hired as occasional substitutes for team volunteers.

3. What is the cost to attend a referee clinic?

Team volunteer training is provided free of charge by the club. The registration fee for the first year is \$58 for a Grade 9 or \$75 for a Grade 8. The fee for a Bridge Clinic is \$58 or \$25 for a Grade 9 Referee who is already registered for the current year. Currently, the annual renewal (along with completing five-hours of online re-certification) is \$53 for Grade 9 or Grade 8. Team volunteers are expected to attend a free refresher clinic annually after their first year.

4. After completing a clinic, what games is a referee qualified to officiate?

Grade 9 referees may serve as either a center or assistant referee for developmental (aka recreational) players from U-4 through age 14. Additionally, they can serve as assistant referees for advanced (aka competitive) youth through age 14.

A Grade 8 referee is qualified to officiate as either a center or assistant referee for any age group, including adults. Based upon past experience in soccer, officiating other sports, personality, and other factors; a new Grade 8 referee generally advances as rapidly as they have the time and energy for, or they find a level at which they are "comfortable," and stick with that age group. Many new referees, regardless of previous experience, prefer to begin officiating as an assistant referee rather than as a center referee and begin with younger players (working their way to being a center referee and officiating older players as they gain confidence).

Officiating for high school or college games requires being at least 18 years of age and having experience refing players of that age in club and/or tournament games plus attendance at a rules clinic specific to that level of play and paying dues to the respective officials' organization.

5. How are referees selected to officiate games?

Officials are normally selected for games by an "assignor." A club, league or tournament selects an assignor to find referees for the games they have scheduled. An assignor is a person who attempts to match an official to a game or games based on the referee's grade, experience and availability. Availability is a major factor affecting the rate at which a new referee can advance. Remember the old saying, "Practice makes perfect?" While practice alone may not always produce perfection, it certainly helps most referees improve and become more effective. Officiating numerous games, accepting "challenge games" with players in an older age group and receiving mentoring from fellow referees and trainers can provide a pathway to success. Assignors try to assign new assistant referees to work with experienced center referees who can remind them of instructions given during the clinic and offer practical hints on how to officiate. Assignors also try to give new center referees and referees accepting a "challenge game" help from two assistant referees who will be there to support them and, if needed, answer questions.

6. What fees are soccer officials paid?

Referee fees currently range from \$10 as a substitute team referee at Canyon View to \$45 as a center for a U17/18 game. Fees generally increase by steps as the ages of the players increase. Assistant referees are generally paid a few dollars less than a center referee.

U9-10 center: \$14

Developmental - (center & assistant referee)

U11/12: \$15 & \$12

U14: \$20 & \$14

CYS or WSSL advanced – (center & assistant referee)

U11/12: \$21 & \$16

U13/14: \$27 & \$21

U15/16: \$37 & \$26

U17/18: \$47 & \$32

(These were increased for the fall of 2010)

Tournaments are sometimes a little less, but games are also shorted by 10 minutes or more.

7. What opportunities are available?

Soccer officials are also needed for high school and college games in addition to tournaments for players of all ages and abilities. Referees can continue upgrading with experience and training to the level of international. Officiating soccer is a great way for kids to earn money, for college kids to keep their skills sharp while exercising & earning money and for adults to stay in shape.

8. Will Grand Junction Soccer Club pay my registration fee?

Team volunteer referee clinics are provided by the club at no cost to the volunteer, plus a black T-shirt is given to each volunteer.

For the Grade 9 or Grade 8 Clinic, a participant may receive reimbursement of their first year registration fee if he/she satisfies the following conditions:

- a. Is a member of Grand Junction Soccer Club (player, parent or referee) at least 12 years of age
- b. officiates eight developmental games as a center referee for U9-U10 players. (The reimbursement will be made upon completion of the eighth game, and the referee will be paid the regular referee fees in addition to the reimbursement.)
- c. pass the certification exam with a score of at least 80%
- d. the referee requests reimbursement

9. Where can I get additional information?

Visit the website www.coreferees.org for information about officiating soccer in Colorado, clinics scheduled around the state, and links to other soccer websites.