

CASA Grow Our Own Referees Program – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. How long is the training?

A. The training is ongoing. It starts with 6 hours of classroom training over two nights. Throughout the season, I observe the referees at matches and provide feedback to them.

Q. Is there a charge for the training?

A. The training is provided for free.

Q. What matches does the CASA training qualify the referee to do?

A. I am certified by USSF as a referee instructor and follow the training guidelines for referees for small sided matches. However, this training is strictly an “in-house” training program, and is not conducted through USSF; therefore, the referees can only officiate the CASA rec. program matches. When the referees are 14 they are encouraged to take the USSF entry level course which then enables them to referee tournament and league matches.

Q. What equipment will the referee need?

A. CASA provides the referee a T-shirt and a whistle. The players are responsible for black shorts and socks and having a watch to time the match.

Q. Since the referees are also players, how are schedule conflicts avoided?

A. At the start of the season, the refs give me a schedule of when they are available to referee based on their playing schedule, family events, etc. They are then responsible for keeping the schedule up to date as things change, e.g. their team has a make-up match or the family is driving to Allentown for Grandma’s birthday).

Q. How are assignments made?

A. Each weekend I review the availability for next week and assign the matches. The referees are notified via email of their assignments. Many of the emails go to parents either because the player doesn’t have email or in addition to going to the player. I also post the schedule on the REF tab on the CASA website www.capsoccer.org

Q. Does the referee get matches every weekend?

A. A lot depends on the referee’s availability and the number of matches. Generally, you can expect matches every other weekend. If matches get cancelled due to weather or field conditions, I try to get those referees on the schedule the following week. If your time available is limited, it will limit how often you are assigned.

Q. What if the referee is unable to cover the assigned matches?

A. When they receive the email with their assignments, the referee is expected to confirm that they can do the match or “turn back” the match if no longer available due to last minute schedule change. This is done by replying to the email. If, after accepting a match, it is necessary to cancel then please call my cell phone 717-497-5394 and leave a message.

Q. How many matches are assigned?

A. Most of the time, a ref is assigned to two matches. However, it is usually necessary to assign only one match per referee for the first several weeks in order to get everyone a match as soon as possible after the training. On occasion, particularly for the younger age groups, three matches will be assigned.

Q. Are the referees paid? If so, how much?

A. Yes. The match fees vary from \$6.50 for the U-5s on up to as much as \$15.00 for the oldest age groups. Those referees who become USSF certified get an additional \$2.00 per match if they continue to do the rec. matches. In addition, each referee gets a hot dog and a drink from the snack bar when they are finished for the day.

Q. Is there anyone at the matches to help if the referee has a problem?

A. I spend part of each weekend at the fields. The referees are instructed to ask the coach for help in dealing with parents and to go to the snack bar for help if a coach is getting out of hand. I encourage the parents of new referees to sit and watch the matches also. There is nothing wrong with you approaching a parent who is getting out of control and suggesting that they calm down or going to the snack bar and getting them involved.

The referees should call or email me after their matches to discuss problems, game situations, or nasty parents and we will then talk through it.

Q. Can I list being a CASA Referee on future job applications?

A. Yes, many of the CASA referees list it and list me as a job reference particularly when they apply for summer jobs at Hershey, fast food places, etc. Employers are anxious to learn that you have already demonstrated that you can be on time, keep your schedule up to date and interact well with others.

Q. What do I have to do to referee travel leagues, tournaments, etc?

A. The US Soccer Federation Entry Level Referee Course is 18 hours of training, usually scheduled in six sessions of 3 hours each. The current cost of the course is \$100.00 which includes all course material and the first year's USSF registration. Participants must be 14 or older on or before the final day of the class. Courses are scheduled throughout the area from September through May. You can find a complete listing of courses at www.epsarc.org

Let me know if you have any other questions

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