



BC SOCCER

BC Soccer
Referee Grading Protocol and Pathway

Version 1.0
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1. Introduction

a. Purpose

The purpose and objectives of the BC Soccer Grading Protocol and Referee Pathway are to:

- Ensure that grades are meaningful and standardized across the province.
- Ensure that game assignments reflect BC Soccer Grading Protocol.
- Provide effective tools for identifying Referees for Clubs, Districts, Assignors, and members of the Development Support Team.
- Define the requirements for upgrading and maintenance of each grade.
- Outline levels of competition associated with each grade.
- Standardize assigning across the province.

The Grading Protocol will be integrated over two steps. Please note, the duration of each step is currently not defined by any length of time. Step (1) One introduces this Grading Protocol as recommended guidelines and best practices. With the intent to make the Grading Protocol in Step (2) Two mandatory across the province. It is important to note that grades are based on Referee standards and may not reflect as an Assistant Referee. This will be addressed in Phase 2 of this process. It is imperative to understand the Grading Protocol and requirements. This document should be reviewed in its entirety. **NOTE: Sections of this document highlighted in blue denote components of Step (2).**

BC Soccer reserves the right to re-evaluate and adjust grading as required.

b. Grade Audit Timeline

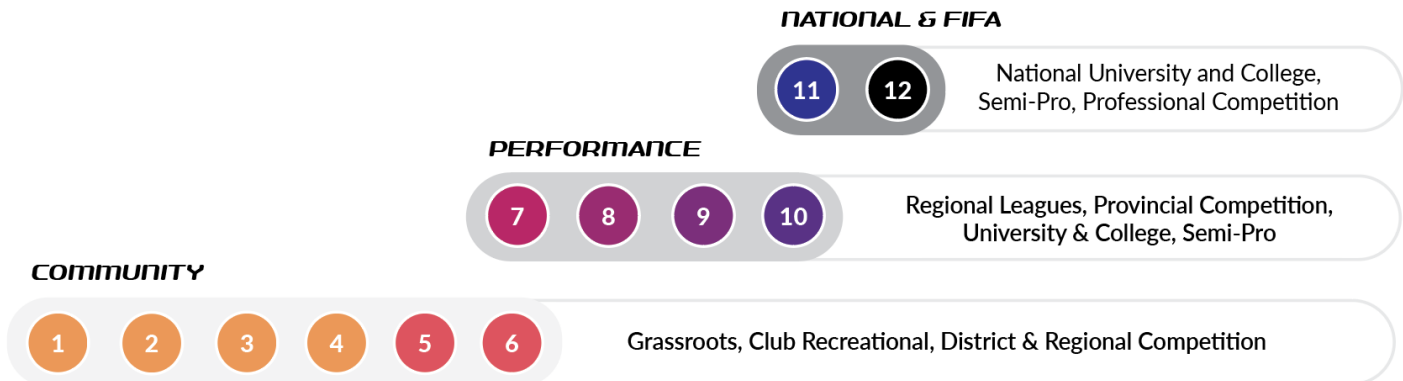
As important as establishing requirements for each Grade are, it is also necessary to ensure grades are updated within a timeframe that allows Referees to meet requirements and prepare for their next developmental stage. The following timelines will be administered to review annually and correctly adjust grades:

Date Range	Description
April of current year	Auto Adjustment of the following grades based on the grade criteria obtained by March 31 st of the current year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3 to Grade 4 or 5. • Grade 4 to Grade 5.
June of current year	Review of Grades based on Fitness Standards obtained by May 31st.
December of current year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of all Grades • Review of Grades based on Upgrading Requirements and Maintenance Requirements obtained by November 30th of the current year.

2. The Pathway

a. Overview

The Referee Pathway highlights two streams at the provincial level comprised of the Community and Performance Pathways. Each pathway contains within it their respective grades as they relate to various criteria and requirements of the specified grade. The Referee Pathway was developed to highlight classifications and clear direction for referees who aspire to attain their own personal officiating career goals. The National and FIFA streams are supported through Canada Soccer.



b. Community Pathway

Grade 1-4

The Community pool highlight students entering the Referees stream through compulsory entry level education courses to build the foundation of officiating basics. The classifications highlighted within this stream are Small Sided and Youth District officials.

Grade 5-6

Community District pools highlight Referees who aspire to continue to move up the Development Pathway or highlight Referees who are maintaining requirements to officiate affiliated leagues for their classification. The classification highlighted within this stream are District officials.

c. Performance Pathway

Grade 7-8

District Performance pools highlight Referees exiting the Community Pathway and aspire to continue to move up the Performance Pathway or highlight those who are maintaining requirements to officiate affiliated leagues for their classification. The classification highlighted within this stream are District officials.

Grade 9-10

The Regional and Provincial Performance pools highlight Referees who aspire to continue to progress up the Performance Pathway for National and International promotion or who are maintaining requirements to officiate affiliated leagues for their classification. The classifications highlighted within this stream are Regional and Provincial officials.

d. Grades at-a-Glance

The following chart provides grading requirements and criteria at-a-glance. It is important to note that officials have the ability to progress through each grade provided that they meet the criteria within them. Exceptional individuals may be fast tracked upon recommendation. **NOTE: Sections of this document highlighted in blue denote components of Step (2) Two.**

	Grade	Classification	Education	Entry Age	Officiating Age Groups	Assessments	Fitness
Community Pathway	1	Small Sided	Small Sided	12	Referee: U7-U12	N/A Mentorship Recommended	N/A
	2	Advanced Small Sided	Small Sided & AR Module	13	Referee: U7-U12 AR: U16 and under	N/A Mentorship Recommended	N/A
	3	Youth Entry Level	Small Sided Module & Entry Level	14-15	Referee: Current Age & Under AR: Any Age	N/A Mentorship Recommended	N/A
	4	District Entry Level	Small Sided Module & Entry Level	16+	Any Age Group	N/A Mentorship Recommended	N/A
	5	District	Education Pathway Curriculum	16+	Any Age Group	N/A Mentorship Recommended	Beep Test Participation Recommended
	6	District	Education Pathway Curriculum	16+	Any Age Group	N/A Mentorship Recommended	Beep Test: Level 5
Performance Pathway	7	District	Education Pathway Curriculum	17+	Any Age Group	Short Form Assessment Recommended	Beep Test: Level 7
	8	District	Education Pathway Curriculum	17+	Any Age Group	Yes, See Grade details below	Beep Test: Level 8
	9	Regional List	Education Pathway Curriculum	19+	Any Age Group	Yes, See Upgrading Program	FIFA Fitness Test Program
	10	Provincial List	Education Pathway Curriculum	20+	Any Age Group	Yes, See Upgrading Program	FIFA Fitness Test Program
	11	National List	Referees in this grade have been appointed by Canada Soccer.				
	12	FIFA List	Referees in this grade have been appointed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).				

*The Education Pathway Curriculum is standardized learning material that will become an integrated component required to obtain, maintain or upgrade within each grade.

3. Grading Protocol

a. Community Grades

The following charts provides an overview of requirements to obtain, maintain and upgrade for Grades 1-6.

Grade 1

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 2)
Classification	Small Sided	Small Sided	Advanced Small Sided
Overview	Referees in this grade have met the criteria for Small Sided and are eligible to officiate 7v7 games only.	Referees in this grade continue to meet the criteria for Small Sided, are eligible to officiate 7v7 games a only.	Referees in this grade have met the criteria to also participate in games as an Assistant Referee (AR). See Age Requirements*
Education Requirements	Small Sided Course	Not applicable.	Assistant Referee Module
Entry Age	Must be minimum 12 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be minimum 12 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be minimum 13 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.
Officiating Age Group	Referee Only Age Groups U7-U12.	Referee Only Age Groups U7-U12.	Referee: U7-U12 AR: U16 & Under
Registration	Not applicable	Complete annual Registration Renewal	Complete annual Registration Renewal
Fitness Testing	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments

Grade 2

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 3)
Classification	Advanced Small Sided	Advanced Small Sided	Youth Entry Level
Overview	Referees in this grade have met the criteria to Referee and participate in games as an Assistant Referee (AR). <i>See Age Requirements*</i>	Referees in this grade continue to meet the criteria to Referee and participate in games as an Assistant Referee (AR). <i>See Age Requirements*</i>	Referees in this grade have met the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games. <i>See Age Requirements*</i>
Education Requirements	Assistant Referee Module	Not Applicable	Entry Level Course
Entry Age	Must be minimum 13 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be minimum 13 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Can be between 14-15 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.
Officiating Age Group	Referee: U7-U12 AR: U16 & Under	Referee: U7-U12 AR: U16 & Under	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age
Registration	Complete annual Registration Renewal	Complete annual Registration Renewal	Not applicable
Fitness Testing	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments

Grade 3

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 5)
Classification	Youth Entry Level	Youth Entry Level	District
Overview	Referees in this grade have met the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games. <i>See Age Requirements*</i>	Referees in this grade continue to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games. <i>See Age Requirements*</i>	Referees in this grade have at least one year of experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.
Education Requirements	Small Sided & Entry Level Course	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Can be between 14-15 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Can be between 14-15 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.
Officiating Age Group	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age
Registration	Not applicable	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Not applicable	Not applicable	Beep Test Participation Recommended
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments

Grade 4

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 5)
Classification	District	District	District
Overview	Referees in this grade have met or continued to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.	Referees in this grade have continued to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.
Education Requirements	Small Sided & Entry Level Course	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 16 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 16 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.
Officiating Age Group	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Not applicable	Not applicable	Beep Test Participation Recommended
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club & District appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments

Grade 5

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 6)
Classification	District	District	District
Overview	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.	Referees in this grade have continued to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game and are eligible to officiate 11v11, 9v9, and 7v7 games.
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.	Must be 16 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.
Officiating Age Group	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Not applicable	Not applicable	Beep Test: Level 5
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments

Grade 6

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 7)
Classification	District	District	Performance: District
Overview	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game.	Referees in this grade have continued to meet the criteria for the full field game.	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria for the full field game.
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.	Must be 16 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 17 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.
Officiating Age Group	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Referee: up to current age of Match Official. AR: Any Age	Any Role, Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Beep Test: Level 5	Beep Test: Level 5	Beep Test: Level 7
Assessment	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	No assessments are required for this grade. Mentorship is strongly advised.	Short Form Assessment Recommended.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, & Regional appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional & Provincial appointments

b. Performance Grades (7 to 10)

The following chart provides an overview of requirements to obtain, maintain and upgrade for Grades 7-10.

Grade 7

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 8)
Classification	District	District	District
Overview	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria with focus on the full field game.	Referees in this grade have continued to meet the criteria with focus on the full field game.	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria with focus on the full field game
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 17 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.	Must be 17 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 17 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.
Officiating Age Group	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Beep Test: Level 7	Beep Test: Level 7	Beep Test: Level 8
Assessment	Short Form Assessment Recommended.	Short Form Assessment Recommended.	One (1) Assessment At or Above District Competency.
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial & University/College appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial & University/College appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial & University/College appointments

Grade 8

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 9)
Classification	District	District	Regional
Overview	Referees in this grade have at least one year experience and continue to meet the criteria with focus on the full field 11v11 game.	Referees in this grade have continued to meet the criteria with focus on the full field game.	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 17 years of age or older by March 31 st of the current year, or receive recommendation, or meet fitness criteria.	Must be 17 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 19 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.
Officiating Age Group	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing	Beep Test: Level 8	Beep Test: Level 8	<i>See Regional Upgrading Program Document</i>
Assessment	One (1) Assessment At or Above District Competency.	One (1) Assessment At or Above District Competency.	
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, & University/College appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, & University/College appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College, & Semi-Pro appointments

Grade 9

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 10)
Classification	Regional	Regional	Provincial
Overview	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Regional Level.	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Provincial Level.
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum
Entry Age	Must be 19 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 19 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 20 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.
Officiating Age Group	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher
Fitness Testing		Regional FIFA Fitness Test	
Assessment	<i>See Regional Upgrading Program Document</i>	One (1) Assessment At or Above Regional Competency.	<i>See Provincial Upgrading Program Document</i>
Qualified Appointments	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College & Semi-Pro appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College & Semi-Pro appointments 	Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College & Semi-Pro appointments

Grade 10

Status	Obtain	Maintain	Upgrade (Grade 11)
Classification	Provincial	Provincial	National
Overview	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Provincial Level.	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of BC Soccer and Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the Provincial Level.	Referees in this grade have demonstrated to the satisfaction of Canada Soccer the ability to officiate at the National Level.
Education Requirements	Education Pathway Curriculum	Education Pathway Curriculum	<p>Referees in this grade have been appointed by Canada Soccer (CA) to the active list of National Officials in the current year.</p> <p>All requirements for nominations are set annually by the Canada Soccer and reviewed by BC Soccer before nomination is submitted.</p> <p>BC Soccer does not confer the Grade 11, but rather recognizes within BC Soccer Grading System such Referees for their status at the National level.</p>
Entry Age	Must be 20 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	Must be 20 years of age by March 31 st of the current year or older.	
Officiating Age Group	Any Role, Any Age	Any Role, Any Age	
Registration	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	Attend BC Soccer Refresher	
Fitness Testing	<i>See Regional Upgrading Program Document</i>	Regional FIFA Fitness Test based on gender	
Assessment		One (1) Assessment At or Above Regional Competency.	
Qualified Appointments	<p>Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College & Semi-Pro appointments 	<p>Officials with this grade qualify to officiate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club, District, Regional, Provincial, University/College & Semi-Pro appointments 	

c. National and FIFA Grades (11 to 12)

Grade 11

Referees in this grade have been appointed by Canada Soccer to the active list of National Officials in the current year.

All requirements for nominations are set annually by the Canada Soccer and reviewed by BC Soccer before nomination is submitted.

BC Soccer does not confer the Grade 11, but rather recognizes within BC Soccer Grading System such Referees for their status at the National level.

Grade 12

Referees in this grade have been appointed by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to the active list of FIFA Officials in the current year.

All requirements for nominations are set by FIFA and reviewed by Canada Soccer before nomination is submitted.

BC Soccer does not confer the Grade 12, but rather recognizes within BC Soccer Grading System such Officials for their status at the International level.

4. Appendix

a. Age Requirements

- Grade 1 Referees 12 years of age, can only Referee player age groups U7-U12. Grade 1 Referees are not permitted to participate in matches as an Assistant Referee.
- Grade 2 Referees 13 years of age or under, can only Referee between player age groups U7-U12 but can Assistant Referee for player age groups U16 and under only.
- Grade 3 Referees between the ages of 14-15, can only Referee player age groups that are equivalent to their current age or under and can participate in a match as an Assistant Referee for any player age group.
- Referees 16 years of age or under, can only Referee player age groups that are equivalent to their current age or under and can participate in a match as an Assistant Referee for any player age group. This rule may apply to Referees in Grades 1 to 6.
 - For example, a 15-year-old Referee can officiate games up to U15, a 16-year-old Referee can officiate games up to U16, etc.
- Referees 17 years of age or older, can Referee and Assistant Referee any player age group.