

Ref Information:

What you need to know....

If you are a new ref and want to ref in the fall you must take the refing classes offered. US Soccer has changed the format beginning in 2020. If you had siblings do this it is now a bit different. US Soccer has mandated that all refs become center ref certified. This means all refs will attend a 2 day class (approx. 6 hours each day) The class includes some online work (roughly 2-4 hours, and then 2 6 hour classes.

The class offerings are typically in the spring, early and late summer. Here in Cape we have held classes immediately after the school year ends. I won't lie it's a boring way to start summer vacation but it gets the class out of the way before true vacations start and HS sports kick in for most kids. In the past we have had 50 kids come from Maine as far as Bangor and Winslow. I would recommend looking into these. Dates and times will be relayed once confirmed with the instructor. Other classes could be anywhere. Typically, Scarborough, Saco, Westbrook, GNG, Bowdoin, and Falmouth have held classes. You can attend what works for your schedule. They are all the same just different dates and times. Classes are posted on www.mainesoccerreferee.com by clicking on the Referee tab and then the new classes tab

After you are certified there is a recertification class each year. This class must be taken each year. Typically, we host one here in Cape in March or April prior to spring sports being in full swing. There is a \$70 recertification fee. The last two years they have been March – May Zoom classes.

Just because you are a center ref after the classes doesn't mean you have to center ref. Some kids may still opt to only side ref. It is also important for the kids to side ref and get use to the environment prior to center refing so most first year refs will get primarily side ref assignments.

Registering and Course schedule.

WHO CAN REF? Any kid age 14 may take the class and ref as long as they have aged out of the Travel soccer program. If you are 13 but have aged out of Travel soccer and turn 14 after the classes are held here in Cape, reach out to me, we may be able to get you into the class.

All registration and courses being offered are now listed on the website...

www.mainesoccerreferee.com

Under the referee tab on the left you will find a drop down list of relevant offerings. Both new and recertification classes, laws, and registration process. I will send more details once our class dates and location are determined in Cape Elizabeth. However, remember you can take these classes anywhere they are offered. They are all the same. Kids in Cape have taken them in Scarborough, Westbrook, GNG, and Falmouth in years past. Do know that not all communities offer the classes and it could require significant travel. I recommend do it early and do it here in Cape.

What does it mean to ref and what do I get paid.

To ref you need to have confidence in your ability to call the game in a fair manner while putting aside distractions such as coaches and parents yelling out what they think should be called. It requires effort to keep up with the play and to be in the proper position to make calls. It demands you to be loud and commanding. Little kids respect the refs if they hear the refs. It requires you to show up 15-20 minutes prior to the start of a

game to conduct an equipment check, captain's meetings, etc. It requires you to be in uniform and present yourself as professional and well trained. Kids who do this have great success officiating and enjoy the work.

Pay and Time estimates as of May 2022. Pay may increase slightly but that has not been Soccer Maine approved yet.

U9-U10 games. 1 Center ref gets \$30 for roughly 1hr 15 minutes of work.

U11-12 games 1 Center ref gets \$40 and 2 Assistants get \$20 each for roughly 1hr 20 minutes of work

U13-U14 games 1 Center ref gets \$50 and 2 Assistants get \$25 each for roughly 1hr 30 minutes of work

The coaches pay you prior to the start of the game. You should receive cash from the coaches. Do not start a game until you have been paid. Coaches will forget to pay you after the game, there are a lot of distractions and you want to get paid for your work.

Games are typically Saturday and Sunday. We work around fall sports schedules and other extra curriculars. The schedule for each weekend typically is out the Monday night before that weekend. Refs are expected to relay to the assignor any day and hours they cannot ref prior to the schedule coming out. If they switch games that is fine as long as the replacement is certified to do that position.

Typically, kids will get at least one game each weekend with some weekends having them get two or three games. When getting more than one game in a day, an effort will be made to get the games back to back at the same location so that refs without transportation don't have to worry about getting from one site to another. In years past we have had weekends with as few as 12 games and as many as 34. Typically, we have two weekends with 28-30 games, two with 18-22 and 1 or 2 with 12-14. Remember many games require 3 refs so there is a need to fill lots of positions. We have also hosted playoffs the last few years and have been able to provide an extra 8-30 games. These games typically have strong center refs with an experienced side ref and a new side ref. It is a great intro into more intense games as a ref.

Kids can ref at tournaments such as Sanford, Falmouth, GNG, Cumberlands etc. Labor Day and Columbus Day offer great opportunities. We have had refs do these tournaments and make excellent money in a short period of time. Let me know if your interested and I will get the tournament assignors info for you.

MY TWO CENTS

Freshman refs will start out with side reffing assignments the first couple of weeks. Kids who are certified to do center may get U9/10 games in the second half of the season. Most U12 and up games will have experienced center refs as the results determine playoff seeding. Freshman will get side ref assignments for these games to experience the pressure and intensity from a different side. Some kids will find that after side reffing these games they don't want the pressure of being a center ref and stay as a side ref. Others may find they don't enjoy it at all and others may beg for more games.

A typical first year ref will recover their costs of the class, the Uniform cost expected to be around \$50 this year, and still make some money. They will make back their expenses and make some money the first year. Those kids who take it seriously and do the job well will make good money as they will get the better paying older kids games.

Each towns ref assignor will receive a database of refs in the late summer. I have only had to use Cape kids for Cape games. However, some towns do look for other towns kids as they don't have enough refs. If you are

really into it, I can provide you with the assignors info or you can locate it at www.mainesoccerreferee.com and reach out to them and let them know your interest. I would definitely do South Portland as they are close and convenient, and in years past, they have needed people. Kids can also sign up to ref at Labor Day and Columbus Day tournaments in other towns. I will send that info when I know who is running the refs for the tournaments.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call me. Fall soccer seems far away but these are things on the horizon for the aged out U14's for next year.

Aaron Agrodnia

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