



Ontario Soccer Regional Upgrading Program

Program Outline

2026

Introduction

The Canada Soccer Regional Upgrading Program (RUG) is a program for Match Officials seeking promotion to the Regional List. Successful completion of this program will increase your accreditation level from Grade 8 to 9.

The Regional Upgrading Program is comprised of 3 phases:

- Application Requirements
- Entry Requirements
- Upgrading Requirements

Each phase outlines specific tasks/requirements in order to move onto the next phase in the process.

NOTE: Any late, incomplete, or incorrectly filled/submitted forms and documents will not be accepted.

Phase 1: Application Requirements

The following items must be completed in order to progress through the Application Phase. Please ensure to refer to the “How to Apply” guidelines that are listed on page 5.

Item	Detail
Application Form	Completed with all fields filled (online application form).
Grade Status	Must be a Grade 8 match official in good standing as of June 30 th of the application year.
Game Log	Must submit a game log for the current outdoor season. Must only submit top 15 games as a Referee and 10 as an Assistant Referee for any 11v11 game at the District Competitive level or higher. Recreational Adult leagues will not be considered.
Reference Letter	Reference letter from District Referee Coordinator would be an asset. Must have a reference letter from your DRC if the minimum number of games requirement is not met in the season prior to applying. The DRC Input Form can be found here .
Eligible Assessment	Must have 1 assessment as a Referee, at or above competency (8.3 or higher), for a U16 District Competitive game, or above, in the current outdoor season.
DEADLINE:	November 9th @ 11:59pm ET

After the Application Deadline:

Item	Detail
Entrance Exam	10 Question Exam. Released after all applications have been reviewed. It will be evaluated by December 1 st . You will only receive one attempt.



Phase 2: Entry Requirements

To successfully enter the following season as a Regional Upgrading Referee you must complete all of the following:

Item	Detail
Online Education Tests	Obtain at least 80% average mark on mandatory winter online education tests. The average mark is calculated based on completing all winter modules (lowest mark discarded).
Ontario Soccer Education Weekend	Attendance is <u>mandatory</u> . April 25-26, 2026. Failure to attend will result in removal from the program.
Registration Exam	Obtain at least 80% on the Ontario Soccer Annual Registration Exam.
Canada Soccer Upgrading Exam	Pass the Canada Soccer Regional Upgrade Exam with a minimum mark of 80%.
Fitness Test	Pass the official Regional Level High-Intensity (HI) Fitness test on or before April 12 th , 2026.

Failing to meet “Entry Requirements” (Not accepted into the Program)

If any of the above “Entry Requirements” are not met, the unsuccessful candidate can re-apply to enter the program the following season.



Phase 3: Upgrading Requirements

To successfully complete the Regional Upgrading Program, you must complete all of the following during your Upgrading Season:

Item	Detail
Game Log	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 qualifying games as a Referee ▪ 5 qualifying games as an Assistant Referee ▪ Review the Qualifying Game Chart here.
Assessments	Three assessments above competency (8.5 or higher) at the current level – District Referee. One assessment must be completed in an opposite gender competition.
Additional	Be in good standing during the upgrading season.

DUE DATE:	September 30th @ 11:59pm ET
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Failing to meet “Upgrading Requirements” in the first year

If any of the “Upgrading Requirements” are not met in Year 1 (assessments/games), the unsuccessful candidate is automatically enrolled in the program for Year 2, unless Ontario Soccer is advised in writing by the candidate that they do not wish to continue.

There will be no program fee for the 2nd year, and no Canada Soccer exam is required. Additional fees will still apply (fitness/assessments, etc.). Candidates must pass the HI Fitness test and meet the “Upgrading Requirements” in Year 2 to successfully upgrade.

Failing to meet “Upgrading Requirements” in the second year

If any of the “Upgrading Requirements” are not met in Year 2, the participant is no longer in the Upgrading Program and is advised to spend an additional year at the District level working on improvement areas, possibly with a mentor, and to re-apply the following year.



Fees & Program Details

RUG Program Fee	\$150 Non-Refundable Deposit Due December 14th An additional program fee of up to \$200 may be required
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Please note: Payment is due after the application is received, entrance exam passed, and approval for entry into the program is communicated by the Ontario Soccer Match Officials Development Team.

Fee includes:

- Ontario Soccer entrance exam
- Mandatory online winter education tests
- Ontario Soccer RUG education weekend¹
- Access to official Canada Soccer Upgrading Program and examination

Fitness Test	Fees
1 st Registered Test	FREE
2 nd Registered Test	Standard 2 nd Test Rate Will Apply

Assessments	Fees
Min. of 3 – Max. of 5 per upgrading season will be permitted	One Free Credit provided after attending Upgrading Weekend

Please note: Candidates successfully upgraded to the Regional level at the end of the upgrading season, will not be required to enter Year 2 of the program.

Refund Policy

- The \$150 Deposit paid by December 8th of the application season is non-refundable. All costs incurred after that date are also non-refundable.

¹ Hotel and travel assistance may be provided.



How to Apply to RUG

Phase 1: Application Requirements

All components of the Regional Upgrading Program application are completed online via Jotform application. Please review the following:

1. Application Form

- [Click here](#) to initiate your application form.
- Fill in each field listed on the form. Each required field must be filled for the application to submit successfully.
- For guidelines on how to download copies of your Game Log and Assessment, please review points 2 and 3 below.

2. Game Log

Submit a game log with Spreadsheet:

- Download 'Application Game Log' spreadsheet [here](#).
- Fill in all applicable fields listed on the sheet
- Save the document with the following name: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME Middle Initial. GAME LOG. EXAMPLE: "Smith, John R. Game Log".
- Upload into the specified field on the Jotform application. **Format must be PDF.**
- **Failure to submit a correct and complete game log may result in your application being deemed incomplete and disregarded.**

3. Assessment

Submit an eligible assessment:

- Login to your RefCentre account.
- On the main screen move your cursor over the "ASSESSMENTS" tab and select "ASSESSMENTS" from the options that appear. Select the assessment that you wish to submit and click "PDF" within the same row. This will produce a PDF document for you to submit.
- Save the document as LAST NAME, FIRST NAME Middle Initial. ASSESSMENT. EXAMPLE: "Smith, John R. Assessment". Please ensure that the assessment meets the criteria listed above in the Assessment Requirements.
- Upload into the specified field on the Jotform application. **Format must be PDF.**
- **Failure to submit your assessment correctly will result in your application being deemed incomplete and disregarded.**

Phase 3: Upgrading Requirements

Regional Upgrading Match Official Assessable and Qualifying Games Chart

The Regional & Provincial Upgrading Qualifying & Assessable Games Chart outlines eligible games to successfully complete the Game Log & Assessment requirements of Phase 3 of the Regional Upgrading Program. The last day to complete a game for any of your Upgrading Requirements is September 30th @ 11:59pm ET. Please refer to the Qualifying & Assessable Games Chart [here](#).

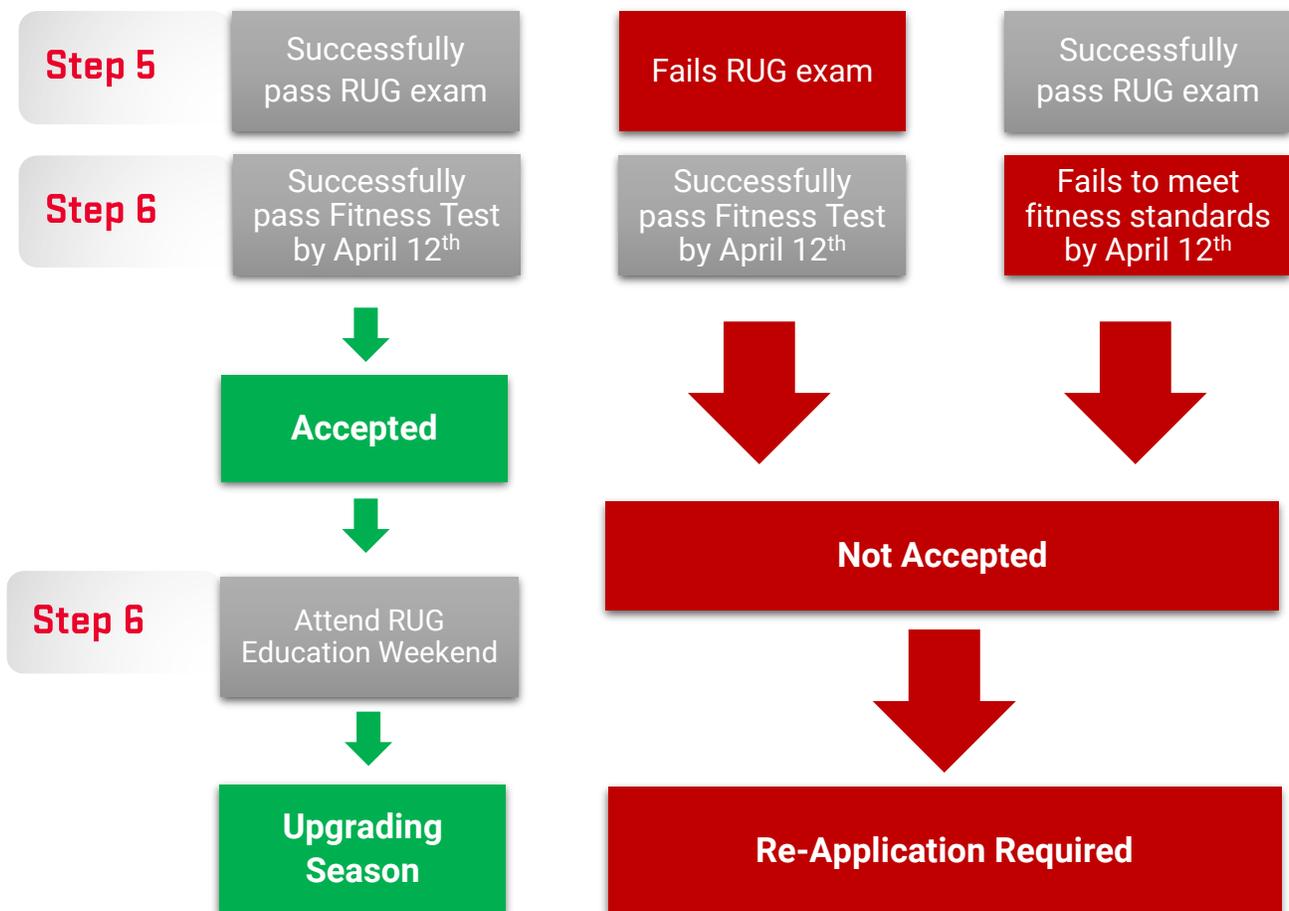


Play. Inspire. Unite.



Ontario Soccer Regional Upgrading Program Process Guide

Step 1	Deadline to Submit Application	Nov 9th
Step 2	Entrance Exam	Nov 25th
Step 3	\$150 Non-Refundable Program Deposit	Dec 14th
Step 4	Online Education Tests	January - April

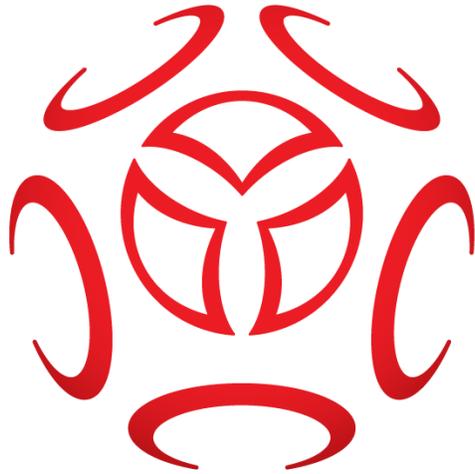


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