

Kansas Referee Pathway



Step 1: Local Leagues

Step 2: Developmental Opportunities

Step 3: Jr. State Cup & Presidents Cup

Step 4: Premier Youth Leagues

Step 5: State Cup & Adult Leagues

Step 6: Regional Tournaments

Step 7: Regional Referee

Step 8: National Referee

Step 9: FIFA Referee

Kansas Referee Pathway



Step One Local Leagues

You just completed your Entry Level Clinic (ELC), congratulations and welcome to the Kansas Soccer Referee Family!

It's time to get out there and work games in local youth leagues near you. Check out kansasreferee.org/assignment for names and contact information of local assignors. As an independent contractor, you will need to seek out these individuals to be assigned games.

Your progression upward into older, more challenging league games will be contingent upon your comfort level and the evaluation of your league assignor(s)/referee leadership.

Step Two Developmental Opportunities



The Kansas Referee Developmental Program has several ways for you to take the next steps in becoming a better referee. After getting the hang of things in your local leagues, take advantage of some of these continuing education opportunities:

- KRDP Monthly Meetings
- Engage with KRDP Mighty Networks content
- Summer and Winter Clinics
- Developmental Assessments
- Kansas Referee Academy

For more information about monthly meetings, access to the Mighty Networks portal, and clinics, email referee@kansasyouthsoccer.org.

Want to learn more about the Kansas Referee Academy? Contact Academy Director, Zach Richter at dan.zach.ks@gmail.com.

Kansas Referee Pathway



Step Three Jr. State Cup & Presidents Cup

Kansas Youth Soccer, in addition to supporting the KRDP with substantial funds, hosts four high level tournaments every year: Junior State Cup, Spring Presidents Cup, Spring State Cup & Fall State & Presidents Cup. At this step, we focus on participation in Jr. State Cup and Presidents Cup.

Referees for these events are selected based on performance in local leagues and the outcome of a developmental assessment. While officiating at these tournaments they are given more opportunities for continuing education through classroom sessions, online learning and on-field mentoring.

Many higher level assignors will also build their rosters with referees who work these events.

Step Four Premier Youth Leagues



More leagues are emerging to provide players a higher level of competition including:

- ECRL/NL
- National Premier League (NPL)
- Midwest Conference (MWC)
- Elite 64 (E64)

With better competition comes a greater demand for professionalism and stronger performance. Local assignors look to build their roster of officials who show strengths in the following areas:

- Knowledge of the laws of the game
- "Soccer understanding"
- Physical fitness & movement
- Player/game management
- Professionalism & communication

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Kansas Referee Pathway



Step Five State Cup & Adult Leagues

The two highest level events Kansas Youth Soccer hosts are the Fall and Spring State Cup Tournaments. While some officials may work at these events earlier in the process, the majority of officials doing middles at State Cup will be folks who have followed this pathway:

- Receiving guidance through the developmental assessment
- Become familiar with higher level events at Jr. State Cup and Presidents Cup
- Hone their skills with similar competition in the Premier Youth Leagues

Officials wanting to upgrade to regional referee should also begin incorporating a steady diet of adult league matches. Most assigners prefer officials be at least 16 to AR an adult game and at least 18 to referee an adult game.

Step Six Regional Tournaments



Just like the winners of Kansas Presidents and State Cup tournaments go on to represent Kansas at regional tournaments, we select officials to travel (at no cost to themselves) to represent Kansas at these same regional events.

Officials interested in being considered to work regional tournaments should:

- Complete the Developmental Assessment
- Work premier youth leagues and KSYSA Tournament matches
- Mentor a minimum of 6 youth league matches in the fall/spring season prior to the event(s)

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Kansas Referee Pathway



Step Seven Regional Referee

Upgrading to regional referee status (working high level youth and amateur adult matches) is a big step in the journey of a soccer official. The Kansas Referee Program expects that you have followed the pathway outlined in this document and comply with all of the requirements listed in the [US Soccer Referee Pathway](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the upgrading procedure and corresponding requirements.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with what is expected of a Regional Referee ([click here for that profile](#)) before you begin taking the necessary steps to earn this badge.

Questions about the upgrading process? Contact State Director of Assessment, Marc Tiemann at marctiemann@gmail.com.

Step Eight National Referee



Becoming a National Referee (working primarily amateur adult and professional matches) is a huge accomplishment in the lifespan of a soccer official. With a big accomplishment comes big sacrifice. The Kansas Referee Program expects that you have followed the pathway outlined in this document and comply with all of the requirements listed in the [US Soccer Referee Pathway](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the upgrading procedure and corresponding requirements.

If you are a regional referee and are interested in pursuing a national badge, you must be in contact with State Referee Administrator, Bill Davey and State Director of Assessment, Marc Tiemann. Marc can be reached by email marctiemann@gmail.com to get the ball rolling.

Kansas Referee Pathway



Step Nine FIFA Referee

FIFA referee appointments (those officials working in the highest level of domestic league and international matches) are made by US Soccer. There is no magical recipe or boxes to check to then earn this badge. You must follow the pathway steps outlined here and comply with all of the requirements listed in the [US Soccer Referee Pathway](#).

If this is your goal, that is fantastic! Let State Referee Administrator, Bill Davey (srakansas@swbell.net) and State Director of Assessment, Marc Tiemann (marctiemann@gmail.com) know and they will guide you in this process.

Additional Notes

Developmental assessments are available for officials all along the way. These can be utilized to gauge your progress, improve aspects of your game and/or prepare for a regional upgrade assessment. For more information, contact State Director of Assessment, Marc Tiemann at marctiemann@gmail.com.

Want to be considered to officiate at a **KSYS State Tournament**? Email State Youth Referee Administrator Gordie Wetmore (gwetmore@kansasyouthsoccer.org) for more information.

From about step 3 and on, we would love for you to find ways to give back to the Kansas Referee Program, the most practical option being **mentoring**. Contact Rich Kaminsky (richkaminsky37@aol.com) for more information about becoming a Kansas Referee Mentor.

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