



2025 Referee Course Information

Dear coaches/parents/guardians/players,

This letter is to provide anyone interested in becoming a referee in 2025 with information about local courses.

Why Referee?

Refereeing offers a fun, flexible environment to learn more about the game of soccer, while also getting paid. Once you're certified, you can referee anywhere in Ontario. Many referees develop a strong sense of community and support with fellow referees by working with them or alongside them at game assignments. Refereeing helps youth build strong resumes while developing soft skills such as leadership, time management, critical thinking and decision-making, and more.

What supports are in place to help new referees?

New referees have the opportunity to request a mentor at one of their game assignments. They also receive direct support from their local club head referee, through monthly newsletters for new match officials and regular Zoom drop-in sessions where they can ask questions in a safe environment.

In 2025, the East Central Ontario Soccer Association is also increasing its pool of referee by mentors by 125% to provide more in-person mentorship and support to new referees.

How do I sign up?

There are two types of officiating courses, small-sided and entry level.

Small Sided

- This course is for those wishing to officiate 7v7 small-sided games only. The minimum age requirement to take this course is age 12 as of March 31, 2025. This course requires the student to complete virtual self-guided modules about the small-sided soccer laws of the game + attend a 6.5-hour in-person education session. Course cost varies by host club.

Entry Level

- This course is for those wishing to officiate 9V9 and full-field (11v11) games, as well as those interested in being an assistant referee. The minimum age requirement to take this course is age 14 as of March 31, 2025. This course requires the student to complete virtual self-guided modules about the soccer laws of the game (includes \$30 online course fee to Canada Soccer) + attend an 8-hour in-person education session. In-person course cost varies by host club.

If you will be age 14+ by March 31, 2025, we highly recommend registering for the Entry Level course. As an Entry Level match official, you will still be eligible to referee small-sided games (mini soccer), but will also be certified to officiate full-field games and to work as an assistant referee.

To register directly for a course, please visit <https://www.refcentre.com/ontario/>. For more information about courses being hosted locally and for local club contacts, please visit: <https://www.ecosa.ca/refereeregistration>. Note: You can take a course in another geographic region and still officiate anywhere in Ontario. Please also note, the online self-guided module requirements can be time consuming and must be completed before an in-person course, so we recommend registering ASAP.

General questions about the referee course can be directed to ECOSA Referee Recruitment Officer, Beth Pelow at beth.music@live.com.

2025 courses occurring locally:

April 26, 2025

- Clinic Type: Small-Sided (Age 12+)
- Location: Peterborough, ON
- Club Contact: Mike Vetzal - Maple Leaf - Cavan FC (officials@cavanfc.com)

May 3, 2025

- Clinic Type: Small-Sided
- Location: Peterborough, ON
- Club Contact: Fevri Pazari – PYSC (fpazari@hotmail.com)

May 4, 2025 – **FULL**

- Clinic Type: Small-Sided
- Location: Northumberland (Cobourg)
- Club Contact: This course is currently listed as full. Frances Martin - Northumberland Soccer Club (info@northumberlandsoccer.com) .

May 10, 2025

- Clinic Type: Entry Level (Age 14+)
- Location: Lindsay, ON
- Club Contact: Jeremiah Beggs - KLSC (jeremiahbeggsreferee@gmail.com)

May 31, 2025

- Clinic Type: Entry Level
- Location: Peterborough
- Club Contact: Fevri Pazari – PYSC (fpazari@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your time and your interest in becoming a referee!

Beth Pelow
ECOSA Referee Recruitment Officer
beth.music@live.com