

Referee Registration and Development

Registration

Referees must register each year with the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA). The registration deadline is usually March 31 each year, and registration covers the period April 1 to March 31.

If you are 12 to 14 years old as of March 31, you **MUST** take one of the OSA referee courses in order to be registered for the year. 12- and 13-year-olds must take the Mini Soccer Referee Course. Even if you took the course as a 12-year-old, you must take it again as a 13-year-old. There is no other way to register for the year as a 13-year-old.

Referees who are 14 or older as of March 31 must take the Entry Level Referee course. You only have to take this course once, unless you have let your membership lapse and are required to take it again in order to renew. When you pass the Entry Level Referee course, your registration is covered for the upcoming year. To renew your membership in the following years, you just have to pay a renewal registration fee. The OSA will send you an e-mail each year to remind you to renew your membership. Renewals can be done online or by mail.

Referee Development

The OSA has a referee classification and grading system as follows:

Grade	Referee Class	Requirements
1	Mini	12 or 13 years old as of March 31; completed Mini Soccer Referee course in the current year
2	Youth	14 or 15 years old as of March 31; completed Entry Level Referee course in the current year
3	Youth	15 years old as of March 31; completed Entry Level Referee course in the previous year and have one year of full-field refereeing experience
4	District	16 years old or older as of March 31; completed Entry Level Referee course
5-7	District	Evaluated and upgraded by the YRSA and/or Markham Soccer Club
8	Upgrading District	Recommended by YRSA as a candidate for Regional classification
9	Regional	Assessment by OSA
10	Provincial or higher	Assessment by OSA

Referees starting out with the Markham Soccer Club will be assigned house league games that are appropriate for the referee's age and skill level. The Club will provide mentoring and internal clinics to help the referee develop his/her skills. As the referee gains experience, the Club will assign him/her to YRSL Youth rep games (U8 to U15), at which point mentors from the YRSA may become involved in the referee's continuing development. Any progression beyond the YRSL Youth rep games will be done through the YRSA and OSA referee development programs. The YRSA provides education sessions and mentoring to help a referee move on to the next level.