If you have a question about the New Referee Course that isn't answered here or at the New Referee Course Logistics page please send the question in an email to bryan.gruchow@gmail.com

List of questions answered below:

Q1: Where does completing the New Referee Course allow me to referee?
Q2: I tried to create a new account at wisref.gameofficials.org but I couldn't because I need a code number how can the sign up.
Q3: If I do not pass the online portion, is there a way I can retake it prior to the in-person class or is she just out? I have looked on the website and can't seem to find any information regarding this. It says attempt one. Please advise, I am hoping to complete this course.
Q4: I wanted to know how exactly the presentations and quizzes are set up and how many presentations and quizzes there are.
Q5: Are there any fees above those paid online or is it all paid.
Q6: Do I have to read all 4 books recommended before the in-person course? The first 3 are do-able. But the Advice for Referees is very thick and not very exciting so i don’t know that he will get that book done any time soon.
Q7: What should my daughter study to be able to pass the Grade 8/9 USSF Referee Exam (80%) to successfully complete the course.
Q8: Should she just review the online quiz again?
Q9: This is the first time we have heard that there is an exam at the Saturday course. Can she retake this if she does not get 80%?
Q10: When is she supposed to read the primary referee resources, Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures. Then review Information for New Referees and Advice to Referees. This is the first time we heard about this.
She has lots of homework each day, so I don't see how she can fit reading this referee resources in now. All of this is new information to us.
Q11: Where do we buy whistle, a digital wristwatch with chronograph features and assistant referee flags?
Q12: We plan to borrow flags etc...from a family friend that no longer refs but I don't think we will be able to get them in time for the class next week (they have been on vacation). Will that be a problem?
Q13: Can I purchase a red referee shirt?
Q14: Do I need the Velcro disc?
Q15: Is there an official coin, or does he just use one from his pocket?
Q16: Are some flag sets more enduring than others?
Q17: Are some whistles nicer than others?
Q18: Are some notepads easier to use than others?
Q19: Are some pocket wallets better quality than others?
Q20: Is there a neck lanyard? (that is, how does he keep a wrist lanyard, a flag, a score pad and pencil, etc. all at his fingertips plus a whistle?)
Q21: Do I have to have black tennis shoes?
Q22: Do the yellow card and caution mean the same thing?

Q1: Where does completing the New Referee Course allow me to referee?

A1: The New Referee Course is a United States Soccer Federation course for officiating USSF affiliated outdoor soccer games.

- The geographic boundaries are anywhere within the US including territories.
- Local USSF affiliated competitions include most Club In-House Leagues, MAYSA Leagues, WYSA Leagues, most area tournaments, Adult Leagues, Regional Leagues and National Leagues.
- There are some age, experience and Grade Level requirements for some competitions.
- USSF referees officiate MLS games and are eligible for selection to officiate FIFA competitions including the FIFA World Cup.
- After successfully completing the course, a referee would be eligible to accept game assignments to any USSF sanctioned games; however, there are age, grade level and experience requirements to some competitions.
- There are also annual requirements to maintain your badge.
- Some competitions that this course DOES NOT certify a referee to officiate include:
    - Indoor Soccer – each facility sets its own officiating requirements and typically hires officials as part-time employees
    - High School – WIAA sets its own officiating requirements
    - College/University – NISOA sets its own officiating requirements
    - Futsal – This requires completing a different USSF course
    - Non-USSF Sanctioned Tournaments – each tournament sets officiating requirements
    - Non-USSF Affiliated Leagues – each league sets officiating requirements

Q2: I tried to create a new account at wisref.gameofficials.org but I couldn't because I need a code number how can the sign up.

A2: That is unusual.

The only reason that I can think of is for those students have been referee's in the past.

I have access to the system and could research individual situations.

Depending on the course there are different codes that may be required.

Send an email to bryan.gruchow@gmail.com with your name, the course number you intend to register and the problem you are encountering.

Q3: If I do not pass the online portion, is there a way I can retake it prior to the in-person class or is she just out? I have looked on the website and can't seem to find any information regarding this. It says attempt one. Please advise, I am hoping to complete this course.
A3: Each student may retake the online session as many times as they choose. Your next attempt will be numbered attempt two.
Instructors have access to referee candidate online progress.
Without successfully completing the online session, you will not be allowed to complete the classroom sessions.
If you choose not to take the course:
1. You could request a refund, (there is a $5 processing fee.)
2. You could apply the payment to a future course

Q4: I wanted to know how exactly the presentations and quizzes are set up and how many presentations and quizzes there are.
A4: The online preparation ask the students to watch 18 videos and take 13 quizzes. At this time, it seems that the last two videos and two quizzes are missing. Complete what is available.

Q5: Are there any fees above those paid online or is it all paid?
A5: There are no additional course or registration fees from USSF or MASRU above the registration fees paid online.
There are however, additional expenses, especially in the first year, uniforms, whistles, flags and other referee gear.
As a referee starts to earn money, I always suggest that they pay their parents back for their course fees and then spend some of their earnings on upgrading or adding to their gear.
Refereeing is essentially running a business
I believe that a referee needs to officiate 5-10 games per season to 'break even.'

Q6: Do I have to read all 4 books recommended before the in-person course? The first 3 are do-able. But the Advice for Referees is very thick and not very exciting so i don't know that he will get that book done any time soon.
A6: Each referee must be familiar with the US Soccer Laws of the Game, Guide to Procedures. The other resources will improve game management and application at the field.

Q7: What should my daughter study to be able to pass the Grade 8/9 USSF Referee Exam (80%) to successfully complete the course?
A7: She should focus on the primary USSF Referee resources, Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures (excluding the fourth official information.)

Q8: Should she just review the online quiz again?
A8: No. The online quiz is not enough information to successfully complete the USSF Referee Exam.

Q9: This is the first time we have heard that there is an exam at the Saturday course. Can she retake this if she does not get 80%?
A9: Yes. Students can make arrangements to retake the exam prior to the start of the soccer season. Once the season begins we must deny those retake opportunities as most instructors are active officials and schedules become hectic.

Q10: When is she supposed to read the primary referee resources, Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures? Then review Information for New Referees and Advice to Referees. This is the first time we heard about this.
She has lots of homework each day, so I don't see how she can fit reading this referee resources in now. All of this is new information to us.
A10: Perhaps adding the responsibilities of officiating soccer matches to her busy schedule is not an ideal step for her to take at this time. We will offer New Referee Courses before the each season. Maybe the late summer would be a better time for her to attempt the course.

- Refereeing is likely to be the closest thing to running a business that your daughter has experienced or, she could choose to make soccer officiating a hobby.
- Referees are responsible for:
  - Purchasing and caring for referee uniforms/gear
  - Managing schedules and travel for game assignments
  - Accounting for expenses, earnings and profits, (including paying parents back!) and potentially creating/filing tax forms
  - Annual recertification requirements (continuing education)
  - Perhaps upgrading to the next referee grade sometime in the future
  - As well as understanding and applying the Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures at each of her game assignments
- Some of the material on the exam will be presented and explained at the class but, we do not have enough time to cover all of it.

Q11: Where do we buy whistle, a digital wristwatch with chronograph features and assistant referee flags?
A11: Referee uniforms and equipment (including starter-kits) can be purchased in several ways:

i. At some local soccer-specific shops, (Middleton Cycle and Stefan's Soccer)
ii. Online at officialsports.com or other online sports retailers (ex: worldsoccershop.com, scoresports.com, satorsports.com, epicsports.com, dickssportinggoods.com, even ebay.com and amazon.com etc.)
iii. officialsports.com orders may also be placed directly with Linda Huttenhoff at MAYSA 608.276.9030 x303.
(The online/Linda options will require shipping costs and time so, if you choose this route, get your order in soon.)

Q12: We plan to borrow flags etc...from a family friend that no longer refs but I don't think we will be able to get them in time for the class next week (they have been on vacation). Will that be a problem?
A12: For the course that should be fine. There will be several students that will have an extra flag as those are sold in sets of two.

Q13: Can I purchase a red referee shirt?
A13: Not yet. Yellow must be the first color, unless his home club wears yellow, then he could start out with green or blue and purchase a yellow jersey as his second color. He will need a yellow jersey to work at tournaments as and as an assistant referee. Yellow should be the first color, he might spend some of his earnings on a red jersey for next season.

Q14: Do I need the Velcro disc?
A14: The MASRU has a supply if Velcro discs that we hope to provide if you successfully complete the course. Referee jerseys are made with the loop Velcro sewn on. The discs are made with the hook Velcro on one side and a sticky-back to attach on the back of the USSF badge. This allows for a convenient way for him to take his badge off his jersey when he launders his uniform.

Q15: Is there an official coin, or does he just use one from his pocket?
A15: There is no official coin but, we recommend something more substantial than a quarter.

Q16: Are some flag sets more enduring than others?
A16: Not really. Every few years manufacturers create and offer a new style or pattern.

Q17: Are some whistles nicer than others?
A17: Yes but, you will add to your whistle collection throughout your officiating career. I know referees that have more than 30 different types/styles of whistles but they all seem to have their favorite one. New whistles are another thing you might want to spend some of your earnings on.

Q18: Are some notepads easier to use than others?
A18: I think you are referring to the paper used inside a data wallet. Those pads can be confusing. Many referees do not use the “pads” but, instead use blank paper folded inside their data wallet, or even the blank back-side of the paper from the pad often sold with the data wallet.

Q19: Are some pocket wallets better quality than others?
A19: Yes but, even the most basic data wallet will last several seasons before you might want to spend some of your earnings on another one. The data wallet is where the referee keeps the record of the game for completing the online game report when he gets home.

Q20: Is there a neck lanyard? (that is, how does he keep a wrist lanyard, a flag, a score pad and pencil, etc. all at his fingertips plus a whistle?)
A20: For safety, as a referee you cannot wear your whistle around your neck. Some referees wrap the lanyard around their hands to hold their whistle. There are wrist lanyards and finger lanyards as well. Some referees do not use a lanyard at all but, carry their whistle in their hands.
During the game only the referee carries a whistle and only assistant referees, or club linesmen, carry flags. Everything else goes into pockets until needed.

Q21: Do I have to have black tennis shoes?
A21: Effectively yes; however, brand logos are acceptable.

Q22: Do the yellow card and caution mean the same thing?
A22: Yes.