Nine Steps Regarding USSF New Referee Course Logistics:

Once you read and complete the appropriate steps below, if you have any questions, write those questions down and bring them to the in-class session of the course.

1. REGISTER FOR AN OPEN CLASSROOM SESSION OF THE COURSE: This requires creating an account at wisref.gameofficials.net. You should create one account for each referee candidate. Do not create multiple wisref.gameofficials.net accounts for the same person. The account that you use to register for the course will also be the account you use for the assigning system and all future referee courses.

   All Wisconsin Referee Courses are posted and open for registration at wisref.org

a. Hover over "Referee Courses."
b. Click "All Courses."
c. Click "New Referee Course Online."
d. Click the blue course number for the course date/site you wish to attend.
e. Complete the registration steps

2. READ THE TWO PRIMARY REFEREE RESOURCES: Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures. Then review Information for New Referees and Advice to Referees. All are available for free download at ussoccer.com. Click "More" then click “REFEREE PROGRAM” then “Resource Center” then “Downloads” then “Download Files" then "Instruction Resources" and then "Books.” Although you will receive a hard copy of the Laws of the Game with your USSF badge and ID Card directly from US Soccer after successfully completing the course, the other publications are not available in hard copies at all so you should download these resources to a computer.

3. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PREREQUISITE ONLINE TRAINING: Complete the online training (estimated to take at least 8 hours) BEFORE attending the course. The online training is Session One of the three course sessions. A minimum overall score of 75% is required to attend the classroom session, (the classroom session of the course are Sessions Two and Three.) The online training can only be accessed after you have registered for a classroom session. Instructors have access to student scores and progress for the online training. You do not need to print any completion documents unless you want those for your own records

4. OBSERVE REFEREES: Watch a full outdoor soccer game, live or on television, specifically observing the referee’s positioning, signals and communications with players, coaches, other officials and spectators. Also watch assistant referee positioning, signals and communications.

5. PURCHASE SOME BASIC EQUIPMENT: Bring a whistle, a digital wristwatch with chronograph features and assistant referee flags to the classroom session. (For the wristwatch, personally, I use a Timex Ironman or Expedition wristwatch. You don't need anything too fancy but, I recommend a watch with big numbers that are easy to see by glancing at your wrist. **DO NOT PURCHASE A STOPWATCH**.)
    a. 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 Supply)
        ii. Order 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 the MAYSA office 608.276.9030 x303. Be prepared to provide item number, sizes and payment information.
        iv. Several other online sports equipment retailers offer referee packages too.

    UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT NOTES:

    1. The online or Linda options will require time and shipping costs so, if you choose one of these routes, get your order in sooner rather than waiting.
    2. You will not need wear your referee uniform to complete the course, and you could purchase referee equipment separately; however, at some point in the near future, you will need your own referee uniform and equipment to officiate your first game and to start earning some money. (We recommend you begin with the short-sleeve yellow referee jersey unless your home club wears yellow for their uniform. If that is the case choose green or blue.)

6. BRING LUNCH: There will be a lunch break so plan to bring your own lunch or be prepared to drive to a nearby fast food store. Expect the lunch break to start at 12 noon and the course will begin again at 12:45 pm.

7. ARRIVE EARLY: We have a lot of information to cover and the classroom session is scheduled to begin promptly at 8AM so plan to arrive early. Expect the course to finish around 5:00PM. The entire course is required.

8. REFEREE EXAM: Part of the classroom session includes taking the USSF Referee Exam which requires a minimum score of 80% to successfully complete the course.

9. YOUR REFEREE ASSIGNING ACCOUNT: The wisref.gameofficials.net account that you create to register for the course will also be your game assigning account. Be sure to remember your username and password. Game assignments will be completed entirely through your online account. The last part of our class will be reviewing how to use your wisref.gameofficials.net account so, if your parents will be helping, ask them to plan on attending the course at about 4:30 pm.
    a. Your assigning account at wisref.gameofficials.net requires you to be at least 12 years-old to be activated.
    b. Successful Referee Candidates younger than 14 years-old will be registered as Grade 9 Referees (Recreational Referee), and will be limited to working games at the recreational level. (Following their 14th birth date, their wisref.gameofficials.net account will be upgraded to Grade 8.)
    c. Successful Referee Candidates 14 years-old and older will be registered as Grade 8 Referees and will be eligible to officiate both competitive and recreational games.

    Congratulations on taking these first steps to becoming a US Soccer Referee. We're excited to have you join us and look forward to meeting each of you in class.
    Please contact bryan.gruchow@gmail.com with any concerns.