Nine Steps Regarding USSF New Referee Course Logistics:

Once you read and complete the appropriate steps below, if you have any questions, review the NEW REFEREE COURSE FAQ page. If your questions are not answered there, write those questions down and bring them to the in-class session or contact bryan.gruchow@gmail.com.

1. REGISTER FOR AN OPEN CLASSROOM SESSION OF THE COURSE: This requires creating a wisref.gameofficials.net account. You should create one account for each referee candidate. Do not create multiple wisref.gameofficials.net accounts for the same person. Your course registration account will also be your assigning system account.
   All currently scheduled Wisconsin Referee Courses are posted for registration at wisref.org
   a. Hover over REFEREE COURSES (or click REFEREE COURSES and move to point 'c')
   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. Create an account by clicking FIND YOURS OR CREATE ONE HERE
   f. Follow the steps to create your account
   g. Complete the registration steps - online payment is required

2. READ THE PRIMARY REFEREE RESOURCES: Laws of the Game and Guide to Procedures which available for free download at ussoccer.com.
   a. Click the "V" next to MORE
   b. Click REFEREE PROGRAM
   c. RESOURCE CENTER
   d. Scroll down under Resource Center to click DOWNLOADS
   e. Click DOWNLOAD FILES
   f. INSTRUCTION RESOURCES
   g. BOOKS
      i. Although you will receive a hard copy of the Laws of the Game with your USSF badge and USSF ID card about three weeks after the course, the other publications are not available in hard copies so, you should download these resources to a computer. I do not recommend printing any of these resources.
      ii. Then review two additional resources: Information for New Referees and Advice to Referees.

3. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PREREQUISITE ONLINE TRAINING: Complete the online training (estimated to take 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 progress and scores for the online training. You do not need to print any completion documents unless you want those for your own records. To Access the prerequisite online training modules:
    a. Sign into your wisref.gameofficials.net account
    b. Click CHANGE IDENTITY (either in the black bar near the top of the page or in the box below the left side menu) This is a good habit to get into every time you sign onto your GO account to confirm you are in the correct identity to accomplish your goal.
    c. Click the green SWITCH or the Blue CURRENT to the left of your 1234 Official Identity
    d. From the left side menu click CONFIRMED REG
    e. Click the green course number for the appropriate course
    f. Click the button LAUNCH SESSION TRACKER

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.
    b. The online/Linda options will require time and shipping costs so, if you choose this route, get your order in sooner rather than waiting.
    c. *You will not need a full referee uniform to complete the course and, you could purchase referee equipment separately but, hopefully - in the near future, you will need the 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. There are no restaurants within walking distance of the course facilities. 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 Grade 8/9 Referee Exam which requires a minimum score of 80% to successfully complete the course.

9. YOUR 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 identity in your wisref.gameofficials.net account 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.

   There is also an NEW REFEREE COURSE FAQ page at www.masru.org under REFEREE TRAINING.
   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 and on the fields.

   I will resend this email as additional Referee Candidates register for the class. I do not anticipate any updated information to be necessary unless “UPDATE” is included in the subject line.

   Please contact bryan.gruchow@gmail.com with any concerns.