

Advanced Referee



Development Program

The Advanced Referee Development Program is a program for Grade 8 youth referees who want to pursue officiating at a higher level.

The program identifies referees who have the potential to perform at a high level and who want to...

- ☆ Broaden their refereeing experience by getting out of their “backyard” to other places;
- ☆ Receive intensive advanced instruction
- ☆ Work with other highly motivated referees; and
- ☆ Referee at the highest possible standard.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How is a referee selected for ARDP?

Referees are recommended for ARDP by USSF assessors and senior administrators. Some are observed at Assessor-for-a-Day events or at state-sponsored tournaments where assessors are observing officials. Some are recommended by assignors and then observed by a representative of the State Referee Committee (SRC).

If a referee is interested in the ARDP program, he or she should contact an assignor and ask him or her to contact the State Youth Referee Administrator or the State Referee Administrator with a recommendation.

What are the requirements for ARDP?

The requirements are enthusiasm for refereeing, a willingness to travel outside their usual venues and clubs, possession of the basic skills of a referee or assistant referee, and most of all a desire to work hard improve.



J.J. Blodgett conducts a pre-game briefing with Gaylen Edwards and Vince Slagel at the Referee Academy at the Atlanta Cup, 2003.



Meredith Duncan referees at the ARDP event held at the University of Georgia Friendlies 2003. Meredith is now a Grade 7 and has refereed at the Region 3 Championships and the National training camp in Bradenton, FL.

What does an ARDP referee do?

At state-sponsored events such as Chevy Cup, Atlanta Cup, and Tide Cup, ARDP referees work together and with higher-level referees under the observation of USSF instructors and assessors.

ARDP referees are invited to referee in state-sponsored events such as state recreation cup finals, state youth cup, ODP competitions, and other competitive events.

ARDP referees are invited to attend [Referee Academies](#) where they receive more intensive training and assessment.



Aimee Kahn-Foss chases down the elusive 2LD.



Andrew Navin patrols the center at the GYSA State Cup, 2003.

What referees are in the Advanced Referee Development Program now?

A list of ARDP referees can be found on the Georgia Soccer website under Referees, Documents. The list is updated approximately four times a year as needed.

Approximately twenty ARDP referees have gone on to earn their Grade 7 (Referee Class 1) badges. They include Meredith Duncan, 2003 Georgia Female Youth Referee of the Year, who refereed the U-15 Girls Final at Region 3 Championships that year; Mike Fischer, Georgia and Region 3 Youth Referee of the Year; and Alex Oliver, Region 3 ODP representative to the National ODP competition in Bradenton, FL, and the National Youth Championships in Maryland in 2002.

Referee Academies

A referee academy is a one-, two-, or three day event put on in conjunction with a tournament or other competition where selected referees receive advanced training, assessment, mentoring, and experience.

A typical referee academy schedule runs over three days and looks like this:

On Friday evening the referees attend a two- to three-hour training session with the coaches. In addition, the format of the academy is explained and referees receive their schedules.

On Saturday, referees are put in crews that will work together all day. They officiate alternating games, usually on one field. They officiate a game, then are off a game, then work a game, etc. In the breaks, the referee coaches discuss the game and give suggestions for things to work on.

A crew might be made up of referees all of the same experience and age who will work on similar level games all day, or it might be a variety of experience levels working on different ages and competitive levels. The level of games might range from U-10 Recreational to U-19 Competitive. Each Academy will have different target groups of referees and offer different opportunities depending on the referees involved and the nature of the tournament.



Jessica Hewell and her crew (Scott Reid, David Duncan) have a post-game discussion with referee coaches Sam Morgan and Arn Manella at the Referee Academy held in conjunction with the Athens Finale, Dec. 2003.

On Saturday evening, the referees and coaches are brought back together for about two hours for a meeting to share and discuss their experiences of the day and to receive more instruction.

Sunday on the fields is a repeat of Saturday, with the referees being shuffled into different crews and with different coaches. A quick wrap-up of the weekend, at the fields, with the coaches finishes the Academy weekend.

How can my tournament host a Referee Academy?

The SRC is always interested in finding a host for a referee academy. Contact the State Referee Administrator, the State Youth Referee Administrator, or the Chairman of the State Referee Committee if you are interested.

The requirements are simple.



Katherine Thompson patrols the line at the Referee Academy held in conjunction with the Atlanta Cup at GSA's fields, Sep. 2003.

1. The tournament organization must turn over selected games to be assigned by the Academy assignor. This might be a whole field for a day or different games on different fields. All the games covered by the Academy on a day must be at the same complex. Academy referees will not be used to cover any other games at the tournament. The schedule will be worked out by the Academy organizer and the tournament assignor. Pay for games is the same as for other referees at the tournament, and is handled by the tournament administration in its usual and customary manner.
2. The tournament must have accommodations for out-of-town referees to obtain rooms to stay overnight. The SRC typically will have funds for the referee coaches/assessors, but not for the referees. It is highly preferable if some accommodations

can be made for young referees' parents to stay, too. This allows us the flexibility of training referees who are too young to drive or stay away from home independently.

3. There must be a sheltered place (out of the sun in hot weather, out of the wind and rain in cold weather) at the complex near the field(s) being used by the Academy, to be used for post-game discussions between games. The referees must be able to be separated during this process from other interferences, such as other referees from other games, spectators, teams, etc.



Emily Donahue nails the offside. Referee Academy, Atlanta Cup, 2003.



A 14-year-old Billy Hale lining for an ARDP event in 2000. Nowadays Billy can be found centering adult amateur games and plans to upgrade to Grade 7 this year.



Jeff Adelman prepares to center a game at Region 3 ODP Camp. Jeff has since moved up to Grade 7.



Rebecca Corey patrols the line in a U-17 Region 3 Premier League match at Concorde, 2003.