

# Referee Advancement in EPA

Based on the U.S. Soccer Referee Program  
2022 License Pathway

# How do I progress up the Referee Pathway?

- Audience:

- Grassroots Referees

- 1 year experience as a referee or more
    - 16 years of age and older
    - Interested in leadership opportunities

- Goal:

- Provide a framework for Grassroot Referees interested in progressing up the Referee Pathway in EPA with an example timeline

# Context

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## **THE GRASSROOTS REFEREE:**

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- Officiates grassroots games (youth and adult competitions) in small-sided 7v7, 9v9, and/or 11v11 outdoor fields
- Works primarily with Grassroots Referees (new or experienced)
- Facilitates games for grassroots players (youth and adult)
- Collaborates with coaches with diverse backgrounds (new and experienced coaches, volunteers, etc.) to ensure player safety and responsible spectator behavior

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## **THE REGIONAL REFEREE:**

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- Officiates games (youth and adult competitions) in 11v11 outdoor fields
- Works primarily with Grassroots Referees and Regional Referees (new or experienced), may include National Referees
- Facilitates games for grassroots players (youth and adult)
- Works in regional and national adult competitions, including NPSL, USL-2, & Lamar Hunt Open Cup
- Collaborates with coaches with diverse backgrounds (new and experienced coaches, volunteers, etc.) to ensure player safety and responsible spectator behavior

# Context

## Mentor

### Observing performance of Grassroots Referees



- Understanding the game and performance environment
- Noting the challenges faced by referees during the game
- Guide and facilitate the post-game reflection with ref team
- Connect with match officials by clearly communicating
- Understanding the profile of the Grassroots Referee

## Referee Coach



### Evaluating the performance

- Understands the performance environment
- Notes game incidents
- Connects with the referee team
- Understands the profile of the referee
- Self-reflects



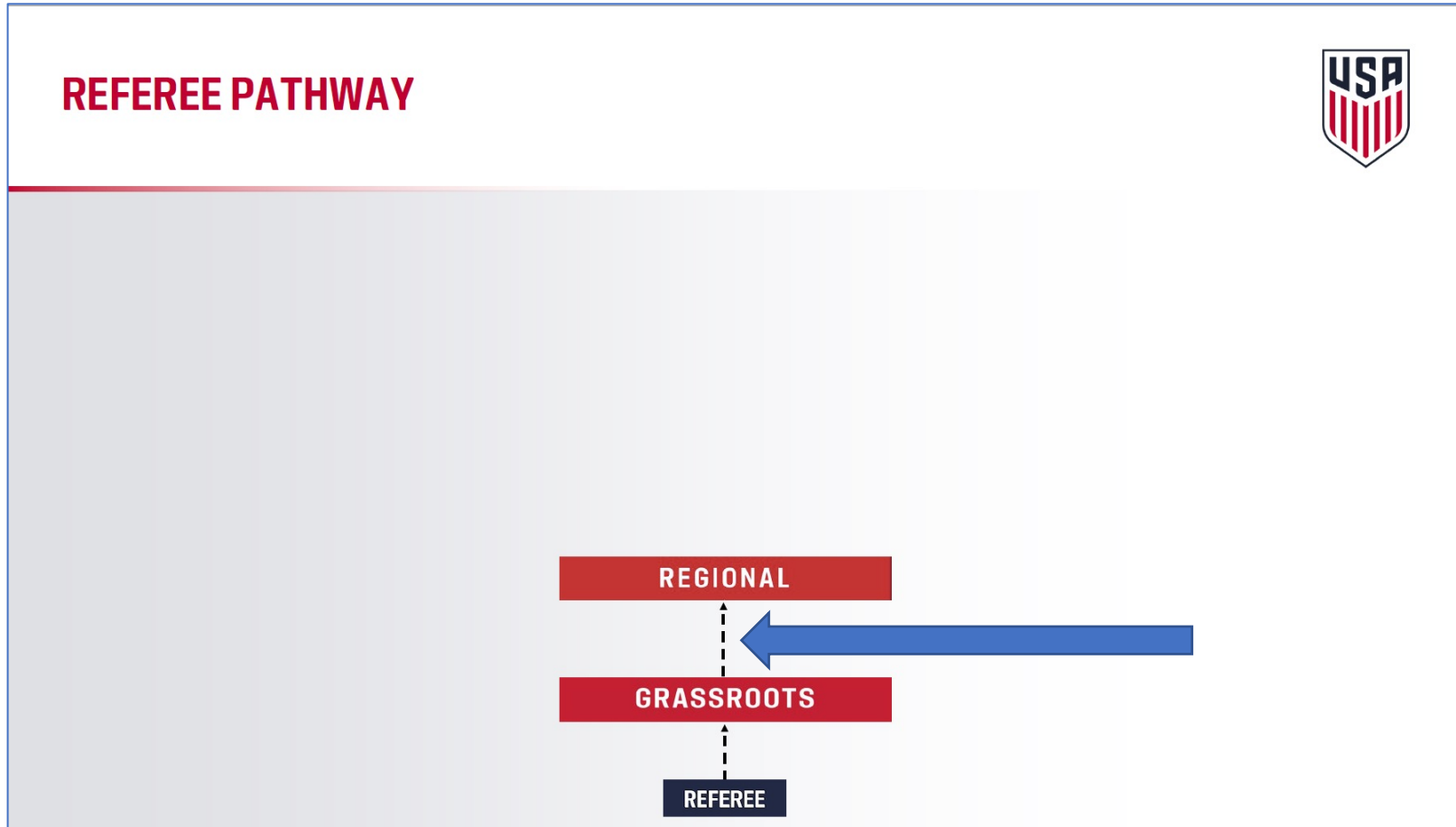
### Leading post-game reflection



### Writing feedback of performance

- Writes feedback summarizing positive points & areas for improvement
- Clearly describes options/solutions for each member of the referee team
- Self-reflects

# U.S. Soccer Referee Program



# How do I progress up the Referee Pathway?



# Express your Interest!

## Required Action Items

1. **Inform SRA and SDA**
  - “I’m Interested in Advancing”
2. Prepare for the Fitness Test
  - Sprint / Interval Tests at the FIFA Women’s Referee Standards
3. Participate with Regional Referee On Field Experience
4. Start a spreadsheet listing of your adult amateur match assignments
5. Continue to Re-Certify as a Grassroots Referee

## Recommendations

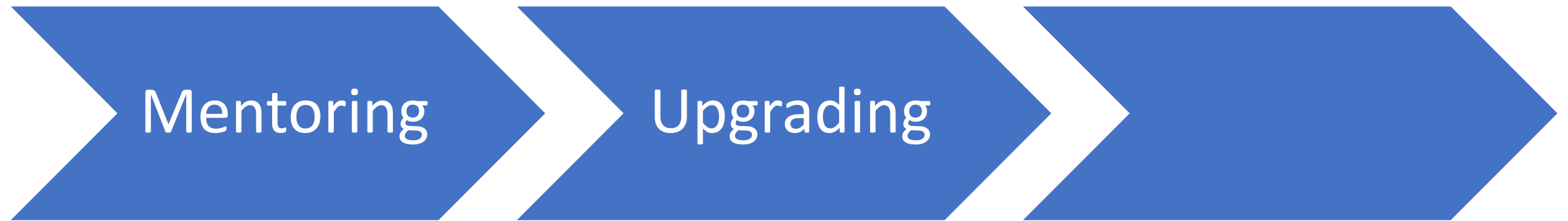
- Anticipated Game Assignments
  - Begin AR/4<sup>th</sup> Official Regional Adult Amateur games
    - Ex- USL2, NPSL, Lamar Hunt Open Cup, Region 1 Events
  - Begin Referee/AR/4<sup>th</sup> Local Adult Amateur games
    - Ex- EPA Adult State Cups, USL of PA
  - Continue Referee/AR/4<sup>th</sup> Youth games (U19 and younger)
    - Ex- MLS Next, ECNL, Girls Academy, East Region Events, EPA Youth State Cups
- Receive Mentoring
  - Ex- MLS Next U17 and younger, East Region Events, EPA Youth State Cup, EPA Adult State Cups, USL of PA

# Minimum Criteria to Request Upgrade

EPA Upgrade Request Requirements	
Age	17 Years of Age and Older
Enrollment	Grassroot Re-Certification
Previous Game Experience	35 Games as a Referee and 20 Games as an Assistant Referee at the Adult Amateur Level
Previous Certification Experience	Minimum of Two (2) Consecutive Years as a Grassroots Referee
Training	Grassroots Online Regional Referee On Field Experience
Safety and Compliance	Safesport Trained Safe and Healthy Playing Environments Background Check (18 yrs. and older)
Laws of the Game Update and Test	Online – Grassroots Quiz
Fitness Test	Sprint / Interval Tests (FIFA Women’s Referee Test)
Practical Evaluation	N/A



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# Upgrading Year

## Required Action Items

1. **CONTACT SRA and SDA**
  - “I’m Interested in Upgrading”
  - *Provide spreadsheet of all adult amateur level matches officiated*
2. Continue to Re-Certify as a Grassroots Referee
3. Practical Evaluation
  - REGIONAL teams
  - Live streamed matches preferred
    - Ex- MLS Next U19, USL2, NPSL, Lamar Hunt Open Cup, NISA Nation
  - Encouraged to Complete at least 1 Evaluation Outside of EPA
4. Progress toward Achieving U.S. Soccer Requirements
  - ALL requirements must be met prior to certification

## U.S. Soccer Requirements

REGIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	
AGE	18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER
ENROLLMENT	REGISTRATION
PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE	50 GAMES AS A REFEREE AND 25 AS AN ASSISTANT REFEREE AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL
PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE	MINIMUM OF THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS GRASSROOTS REFEREE
TRAINING	REGIONAL REFEREE COURSE AND ON FIELD EXPERIENCE
SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE	SAFESPORT TRAINED SAFE and HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS BACKGROUND CHECK
LAWS OF THE GAME UPDATE and TEST	ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST
FITNESS TEST	SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS (FIFA WOMEN'S REFEREE TEST) Male - Category 1 Female - Category 3
PRACTICAL EVALUATION	MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING EVALUATIONS. AS A REFEREE. TWO (2) AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL, ONE (1) AT THE HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 or U19) (2 X 45 - minute half) EVALUATIONS MUST BE DONE BY THREE (3) DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES FOR ALL THREE GAMES

# Competitions Eligible for Field Evaluation

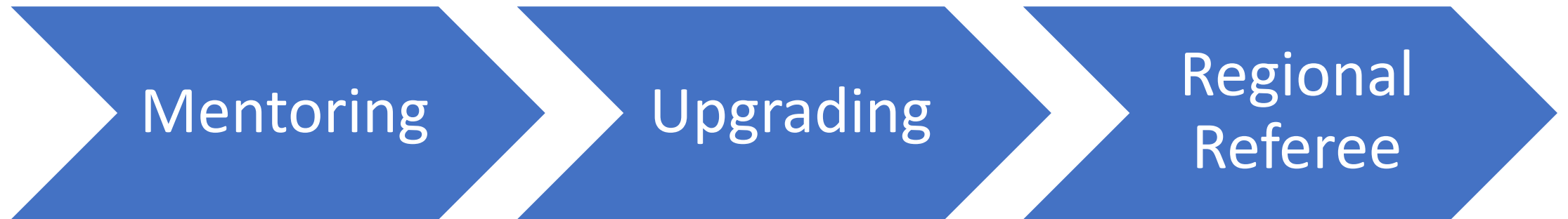
## Adult Amateur

- EPSA State Cup Finals
  - Amateur, Open, O30, O40
  - [eastpasa.net/national-cup-](http://eastpasa.net/national-cup-)
- EPSL
  - [epslsoccer.com](http://epslsoccer.com)
- Lamar Hunt Open Cup
  - [ussoccer.com/us-open-cup](http://ussoccer.com/us-open-cup)
- NESL
  - [nesl-soccer.com](http://nesl-soccer.com)
- NISA Nation
  - [nisanation.com](http://nisanation.com)
- NPSL
  - [npsl.com](http://npsl.com)
- USL2
  - [uslleaguetwo.com/league-teams](http://uslleaguetwo.com/league-teams)
- USASA Region 1
  - [usadultsoccer.com/region1](http://usadultsoccer.com/region1)
- UWS
  - [uwssoccer.com](http://uwssoccer.com)

## Highest Level Youth (U18 or U19)

- EPYSA State Cup Finals
  - [epysa.org/national-championship-series-state-cup/](http://epysa.org/national-championship-series-state-cup/)
- ECNL
  - Boys: [ecnlboys.com](http://ecnlboys.com)
  - Girls: [ecnlgirls.com](http://ecnlgirls.com)
- Girls Academy
  - [girlsacademyleague.com](http://girlsacademyleague.com)
- MLS Next
  - [mlssoccer.com/mlsnext/](http://mlssoccer.com/mlsnext/)

# How do I progress up the Referee Pathway?



# Regional Referee

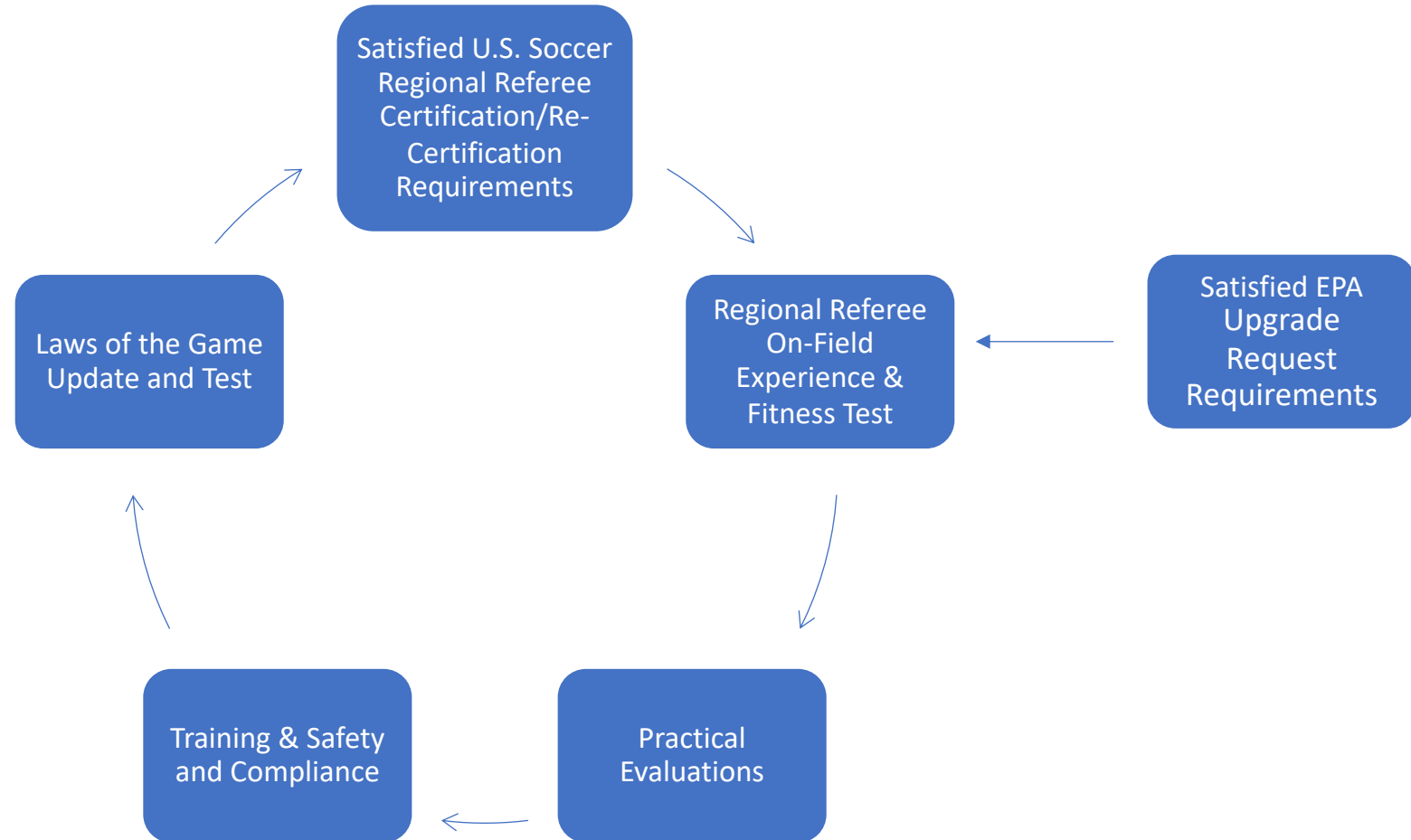
## Required Action Items

1. Continue to Re-Certify as a Regional Referee
2. Practical Evaluation
  - REGIONAL teams
  - Live streamed matches preferred
    - Ex- MLS Next U19, USL2, NPSL, Lamar Hunt Open Cup, NISA Nation
  - Encouraged to Complete at least 1 Evaluation Outside of EPA

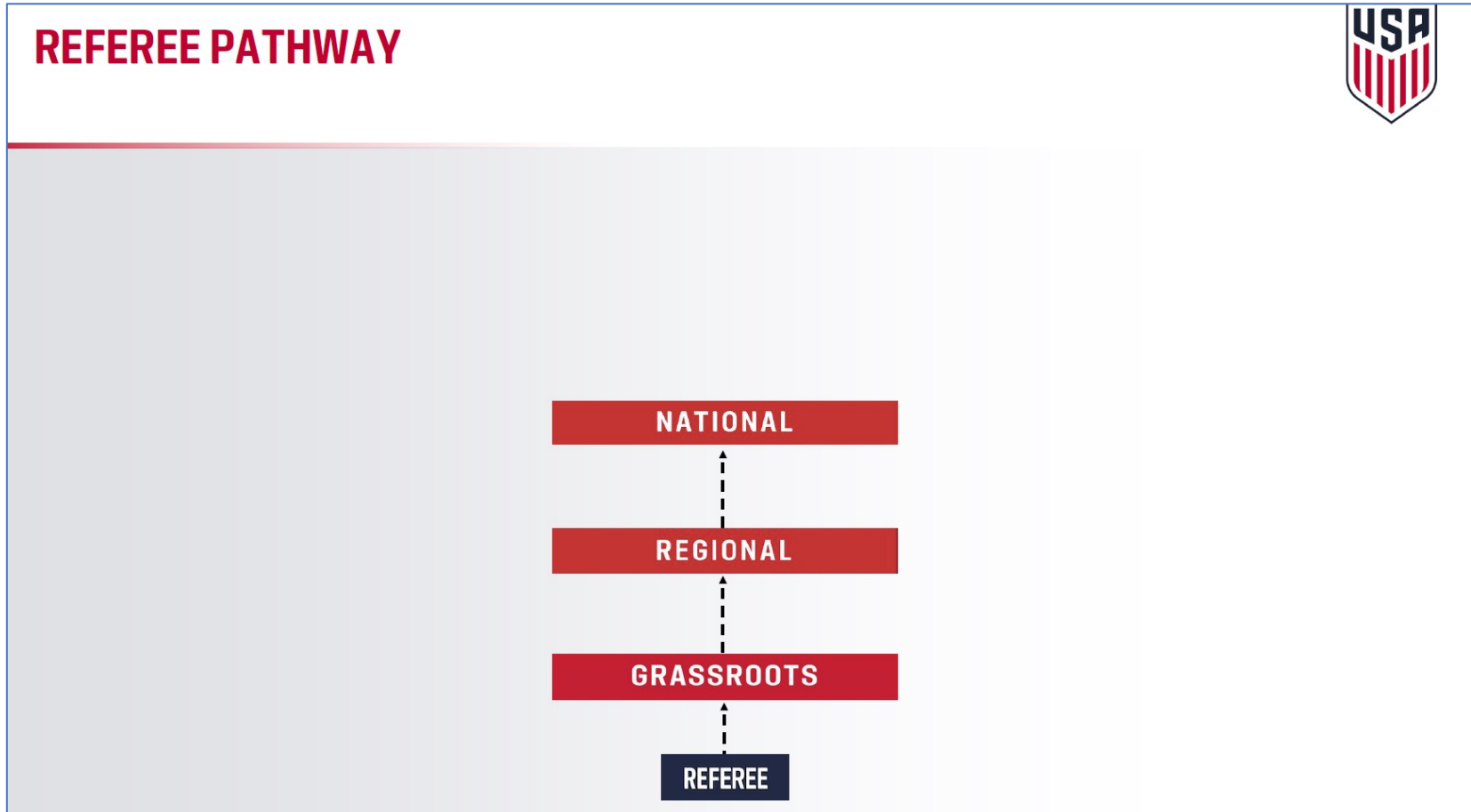
## U.S. Soccer Requirements

REGIONAL RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	
ENROLLMENT	REGISTRATION
TRAINING	ONLINE AND ON FIELD EXPERIENCE
SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE	SAFESPORT TRAINED SAFE and HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS BACKGROUND CHECK
LAWS OF THE GAME UPDATE and TEST	ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST
FITNESS	SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS (FIFA WOMEN'S REFEREE TEST) Male - Category 1 Female - Category 3
PRACTICAL EVALUATION	TWO (2) PASSING EVALUATIONS. ONE AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL ONE AT THE HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 or U19) (2 X 45-minute half) EVALUATIONS MUST BE DONE BY TWO DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES

# Annual Regional Referee Certification Process



# U.S. Soccer Referee Program



# Contacts

## EPSARC

- Ian Bongaardt
  - State Referee Administrator
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- Jeff Tener
  - State Youth Referee Administrator
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  - Referee Coach
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## Referee Assignors

- Joe Della Penna
  - MLS Next
    - [idelapenna@aol.com](mailto:idelapenna@aol.com)
- Tim Snyder
  - EPA Youth State Cups, Region 1, EPA Adult State Cups
    - [timsnydersoccerassigning@comcast.net](mailto:timsnydersoccerassigning@comcast.net)
- John Campbell
  - ECNL, Girls Academy
    - [campbell@chesco.com](mailto:campbell@chesco.com)
- Mike Piercey
  - State Director of Assessment
  - National Referee Coach
  - National Assignor: USL2, NPSL, UWS, Lamar Hunt Open Cup, NISA Nation
    - [mpierceyref@aol.com](mailto:mpierceyref@aol.com)