Responses to Common Reasons for Not Refereeing

**1. I don't know anything about the game**.

Many CASA referees understood little about soccer when they first volunteered. All we ask of you is a little of your time and we will train you. The training can be done a little at a time or all at once, whatever is most convenient and available. AYSO has a referee training program which many consider to be the best you will find anywhere in the world and can be completed in short evening sessions over an extended time or all at once in a full-day training course.

We believe that, with training, your knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the game will increase. Look on CASA website for a list of referee training courses and the times allotted for each. Also, Safe Haven is mandatory for any new referee.

**2. I don't have the time.**

We do not ask our referees to obligate themselves to be constantly available to referee. What we need is a little help. Referees are free to choose the games they can do. They can be scheduled at their convenience, possibly just before or after the game their child is playing.

**3. I don't think I could put up with the behavior of some coaches and spectators**.

It’s good to hear you say that! We do not want our referees to put up with bad behavior. Regions have strict policies governing such behavior and we are strongly committed to these policies. We actually have very few problems. As a referee, we can teach you how to deal with situations in a dignified and appropriate manner. You can help maintain the AYSO philosophies of Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship, while setting a good example for our impressionable young players.

**4. I'm not the right kind of person to be a referee. I'd be embarrassed**.

To be the "right kind of person" to referee CASA games all you need is to enjoy watching kids have fun playing soccer. We can teach you the rest. If you care about kids you will make a good CASA referee. There is no need to feel embarrassed about making mistakes because we are all volunteers and even our most experienced referees were beginners at some point and they all grew from their mistakes.

**5. I can't afford the equipment.**

Don't worry about the expense; most CASA Regions will provide a uniform and most of the necessary equipment.

**6. I’m too old.**

As long as you can think and move around, you can do it. AYSO has referees of all ages. One of the reasons they keep doing it is because it keeps them young! You would start in our youngest divisions where the fields are smaller and the games are shorter. You can progress from there if you want. Potentially, every division needs referees.

**7. I’m too young**.

If you are 12 years old you are not too young to be an 8U official. Regional Referees and Assistant Referees only have to be 14 years old. There are thousands of boys and girls around the country who referee.

**8. I don't think I could keep up with the players**. Some of them are pretty fast.

Don’t worry, there are all levels of speed in soccer. The older age division games, with the faster players, are handled by fitter and more experienced referees. There are plenty of younger division games on smaller fields where you would be able to keep up. Refereeing is a great way to get a little exercise and to have fun at the same time.

**9. I don't think I could handle the responsibilities of the referee**.

In time, you will develop the confidence to referee. You can also provide vital assistance to the referee by being an assistant referee. There are several qualified volunteers who only work as assistant referees. Every good referee will tell you that having good assistant referees makes all the difference in a game and twice as many of them are needed.

**10. I'm a woman and I do not see women out refereeing**.

Women certainly do referee and are good at it, too. They are natural referees and represent CASA’s greatest untapped resource. Many of our players are girls and they love having women referees. They are comfortable with them and look up to them as role models. If you are a mom, you are used to making quick decisions and multi-tasking. If you are the mother of two or more children, you already know what it means to be a referee! Don’t worry. CASA will teach you and support you and as with all referees, start you with younger children. You will be mentored until you feel comfortable and confident.

10. I don’t want to be the only woman out there.

CASA wants you to be one of many. The more females who referee the better it will be for CASA. In some Regions, female referees have joined together, train together and team up for games. Most referees are happy to be mentors, to offer their knowledge and support to new referees whether they are male or female.