



Saskatchewan Soccer Association

Referee Development Best Practices

Appendices

Appendix A – Sample Referee Qualification / Match Grading Systems

Example of possible grading structures to be used when administering your referee qualifications

A1 – Simple Ratings

This approach may be useful for smaller MOs with relatively few divisions of play, or for those seeking simplicity in their qualifications approach.

Within each age group referees are classified as Introductory, Intermediate, or Advanced; and assigned games accordingly as seen in Table A1

Table A1 – Simplistic Qualifications

Age Groups	Referee Level	Assigning Preferences (Example)
Youth	Beginner	U11, U13 lower division
	Intermediate	U15 premier, U17-U19 Div 2 and below
	Advanced	U17 premier, U19 premier
Adult	Beginner	Lower divisions,
	Intermediate	Middle Tier divisions, regular matchups, Masters
	Advanced	Upper divisions, difficult matches, Tournament playoffs

Post completion of the Entry Level Clinic, both youth and adult referees would start with their respective beginner level. Depending on their progress evidenced by mentorship reports, they can be moved up to the next division/level.

A2 – Grading Scale

In this approach, all divisions within the Member Organization are ranked with grades (qualifications) determined based on competition levels. Referees are mentored and assigned a grade level based on that scale. The grade of the referee corresponds directly to the grades of the divisions, and therefore governs what levels of game the referee is rated for. For example, a level 7 referee could officiate all games rated rank 7 or lower. Example is given in Table A2-1.

Upon graduating the Entry Level Referee, referees will likely start with the first grade corresponding to their level of play (youth -1; adult – 4)

Grades may be assigned based on a referee's experience, match performances, the results of their mentorship reports, recommendation by a referee liaison, etc., and according to the needs of the organization. Regional referees are graded as an 8 while provincial Referees are graded 9-10. While it is highly likely that referees holding Regional and above certifications do have superior skills, it is important to continue to provide access to the high level local matches (Division 1) to other qualified District Referees that may not wish to pursue promotion towards the Regional status but have demonstrated interest and ability to handle such matches.

****For this example, a system with 10 grading levels is used, however it may better fit the needs of the organization to use a lesser or greater number of divisions, or to change which divisions are attached to each grade.*

Table A2-1 – Required Referee Grades by Division

Division	Referee Grade Required (min)	AR Grade Required
Adult Co-Ed Division 1	7	7
Adult Co-Ed Division 2	7	7
Adult Co-Ed Division 3	7	6
Adult Co-Ed Division 4	7	5
Adult Co-Ed Division 5	6	5
Adult Co-Ed Division 6 and lower	6	5
Adult Division - Two Referee System	7	7
Adult Division 1	7	7
Adult Division 2	7	7
Adult Division 3	7	6
Adult Division 4	6	6
Adult Division 5	6	5
Adult Division 6 and lower	6	5
Adult Masters	7	5
Youth U11 Division 1	2	1
Youth U11 Division 2 and lower	1	1
Youth U13 Division 1	4	3
Youth U13 Division 2 and lower	3	1
Youth U15 Division 1	5	3
Youth U15 Division 2 and lower	4	3
Youth U17 Division 1	6	5
Youth U17 Division 2 and lower	5	3
Youth U19 Division 1	7	5
Youth U19 Division 2 and lower	6	5

SSA believes that in accordance to the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), which guarantees broad equality rights, game fees should be the same for the level of the game, regardless of gender.

In addition to the adopted grading, Member Organizations may further determine the appropriate divisions for each referee on an individual or “case by case” basis. This approach requires more administrative effort at first, though it provides a greater degree of customization of referee assigning as per the demonstrated ability of the referee (through mentorship reports and assessments) and the needs of the Member Organizations and each specific match.