

Basic Referee Online Training

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Basic Referee Online Training?

Basic Referee Online Training is an alternative means of training entry-level Regional Referees. It provides the same level of training as the Basic Referee Course, but does so with a combination of online and live instruction. It is an alternative to, not a replacement for, the Basic Referee Course.

Why should I be interested in Basic Referee Online Training?

Some regions will find Basic Referee Online Training an attractive alternative to the Basic Referee Course. Basic Referee Online Training enables prospective referees to learn the majority of the material in the Basic Referee Course at their own pace using computer-based instruction. A small amount of additional material and the Law exam are presented in a single three-hour in-class session with a certified instructor, which also provides the opportunity for prospective referees to have their questions answered before beginning to officiate. Some regions will find the reduced “classroom” time beneficial in recruiting busy volunteers to be referees. Some regions with limited access to instructors will find it easier to put on training for prospective referees by having a single evening session shared with adjacent regions.

Is it mandatory that regions use it?

No. Basic Referee Online Training is an optional alternative to the Basic Referee Course and is intended to be used by any region that finds it useful. Some regions may choose to offer one or the other, while others may choose to offer both.

I’m an RRA (or RDI). How do I decide whether to use Basic Referee Online Training?

The Basic Referee Online Training’s combination of the self-paced computer-based instruction and the three-hour in-class session provides new entry level referees with the same material as the existing Basic Referee Course. The intent behind creating the online course was to make it easier for regions to recruit and train new referees by reducing the logistical hurdles to training (e.g. availability of instructors, classrooms, and students for long periods of time). When Basic Referee Online Training is made available for use throughout AYSO, it will be accompanied by written guidelines to help regions decide if it will be helpful for their training needs. These guidelines will be developed based on the experience acquired during the testing phase that is now underway.

Do I need to have a specially trained instructor for Basic Referee Online Training?

No. Anyone who is presently authorized to deliver the Basic Referee Course will be authorized to deliver the “live” portion of Basic Referee Online Training, which is called the Basic Referee Online Companion Course. However, if an Advanced Referee Instructor is available, it is recommended that he/she lead the Companion Course. In the future, the National Referee Program expects to augment the training for Referee Instructors specifically to help them deliver the Companion Course, including some material that is presently included in the training for Advanced Referee Instructors.

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Does eAYSO understand about Basic Referee Online Training?

Yes. The two portions of the training – the Basic Referee Online Course and the Basic Referee Online Companion Course – are treated as a unit. The instructor for the Companion Course creates and completes a roster in a manner quite similar to that used for the Basic Referee Course. An attendee who is listed on this roster as having completed the Basic Referee Online Training is treated identically, for certification purposes, to one who has completed the Basic Referee Course.

Does an individual have to be a registered AYSO volunteer in order to take the computer-based portion of Basic Referee Online Training?

Yes.

Is AYSO developing online training above the Regional Referee level?

Decisions regarding the development of further online referee training will depend on the experience gained with Basic Referee Online Training. The National Referee Advisory Commission and the National Support and Training Center believe online training can be an effective component of referee training. However, computer-based training has both initial and ongoing costs that must be carefully weighed against the benefits. The regions' experience with Basic Referee Online Training will provide important information to inform that judgment.

May the Basic Referee Online Course be used as a review tool by current referees?

Yes, once the pilot-testing is completed and the Basic Referee Online Course is broadly available within AYSO. The Online Course is not restricted to use for initial training. It is a convenient method for current referees to review the fundamentals of officiating AYSO matches. However, it is not a comprehensive treatment of the Laws of the Game.