



AYSO Referee Exams Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Referee Instructors

Why do the exams look different this year?

Since 2006, the AYSO National Referee Program has been using a software system to produce written exams. This year, we replaced the software with a much better product that gives us the ability to produce better exams with greater flexibility. However, there are some small differences in the appearance of the exams produced by the old and new software.

What are the main differences?

Students will notice virtually no difference, except perhaps that the questions are a little more readable due to increased spacing. Instructors will notice several small differences in the exam layout and in the answer keys and explanations. Most notable is the separate of the keys from the explanation, which will facilitate grading.

Can these new exams be administered online? Can they be graded automatically?

No. However, the software we've now adopted has the capability of producing exams intended for online use. The National Referee Advisory Commission is considering how to make use of this capability.

How many exams are there?

There are 16 referee exams:

U-8 Official (2 versions)	Referee Instructor (2 versions)
Basic Referee (2 versions)	Advanced Referee Instructor (2 versions)
Intermediate Referee (2 versions)	Referee Assessor (1 version)
Advanced Referee (2 versions)	National Referee Assessor (1 version)
National Referee (2 versions)	

In addition, there are sample exams for Intermediate, Advanced, and National Referee candidates.

How are the exams distributed?

Exams are available to referee instructors on the AYSO national web site (<http://www.ayso.org>). Follow the "Instructors" link at the top of the main web page, then the "Referee" link and finally the "Exams" link. There is a separate PDF file for

each exam. Each file contains the complete exam and instructor answer key. It is recommended that instructors download the exam(s) they need, print one copy in double-sided form, then duplicate (e.g., at a local copy center) the pages that comprise the exam proper. Note that access to the exam files is password-protected and that the password is available to instructors by contacting the Officiating Department at NSTC or through Section Directors of Referee Instruction.

Exams may also be order from the AYSO Supply Center.

How often will the exams change?

We revise the exams at least annually in order to accommodate changes in the Laws. We revise them more frequently if the need arises.

How do I know if I have the correct exam for my class?

Each exam is identified by the referee level to which it applies. Each exam also has a version identifier, which is the year and month in which it was created. Since two exams are created for each level, a version identifier looks like "0412b", which specifies that the exam was created in December, 2004, and that it was the second such exam at that level (the "b"). Since the Laws change every July, you should ensure that you use an exam whose version indicates it was created no earlier than the previous July. The most current exams are available on the AYSO Help web site.

How is the number of points on the exams computed?

The questions on the exams are either true/false, multiple-choice, or fill-in. Each true/false and multiple-choice question is worth one point. Each fill-in question, unless explicitly noted otherwise, is worth one point *per blank*. So, for example, a question that asks the student to list four penal fouls is worth four points.

Some misconduct scenario questions (confined to Advanced and National exams) have a more complicated scoring. The instructions preceding these questions in the exam body explain how they are scored. Essentially, one point is given for properly naming the misconduct (if any), one point is given for correctly identifying the misconduct *and the guilty team(s) color(s)*, and one point is given for correctly specifying the restart *and the team color*.

The total number of points in the exam and the number required to pass are given on the cover sheet of the exam.

Has the grading procedure changed?

No. Each exam has an answer key, and each answer has a short explanation for the instructor's use. We do not have the capability to format the answer key with blocks that correspond to printed pages of the exam, so some instructors find it easier to

transcribe the answers to a blank exam and use that as the answer key, since the key then corresponds page-by-page correspondence to the student exam paper.

Has the procedure for reporting results to NSTC changed?

No. Tests are retained by instructors and successful completion is reported on the *Application for Referee Upgrade* form.

May students keep their exams?

No. Although the questions are drawn from a database, there is still significant overlap in the questions that appear on different versions of exams, both in the same year and in different years. If students were to keep their exams, it would not be long before the entire database would be “revealed”.

How do I report errors in the new exams?

We have developed the *Referee Exam Feedback* form to enable instructors to report problems with the exam questions and to suggest new questions. The form is attached at the end of every exam file. It may be printed, completed, and mailed, or the equivalent information may sent by email to NSTC. The form contains complete instructions on how to do this.

Now that there is new software, are there new questions too?

Yes and no. Most of the questions from the old software have been carried forward, although every question has been examined and quite a few have been adjusted to improve clarity. A small number of questions have been discarded and replaced with new ones.

Have you gotten rid of those trick questions that my students always miss?

The question database contains nearly 700 questions, each of which has been reviewed carefully by members of the National Referee Advisory Commission. There are no intentional “trick” questions, and each exam states that fact on its cover page. Moreover, the wording of many questions has been adjusted to reduce ambiguity where it has led to problems in the past.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to anticipate all the ways in which students can misinterpret test questions. Inevitably, situations will arise in which students claim the question is poorly or improperly worded. While instructors have the power to deal with such situations by adjusting a test score to discount an unsuitable question, this should be a rare occurrence. In such cases, it is best to confer with Section or National staff before deciding that a question is unsuitable, and a *Referee Exam Feedback* form should be submitted so that problem can be corrected for everyone’s benefit.

Who creates these exams? How do I get my favorite question on one?

The National Referee Advisory Commission has responsibility for the exams. To submit a question for consideration, fill out *Referee Exam Feedback* form, which is attached to every version of every exam.