



New BESA Referee FAQs

I am a new referee (or new to BESA), How can I referee for BESA?

Download a Referee Contact Information form from the BESA Ref website, complete and send it to the BESA Director of Officials at off@besasoccer.com. The BESA Director of Officials and/or the BESA Referee Assignor will then contact you.

What kind of uniform and equipment do I need?

The basic uniform for referees is a yellow shirt, black referee shorts, black socks with three stripes at shin height and predominantly black shoes. There are no particular shoes that we recommend only that you get a pair that are comfortable and won't cause blisters when you run. In addition to a uniform, you will need a watch, preferably one that displays seconds. You'll need a whistle, a small book with score sheets for record keeping, a flipping coin, red and yellow cards and a set of flags. These items can be purchased at local soccer stores or various internet retailers.

How can I get assigned to officiate games?

BESA games are posted on the web. You may access this site (you'll have to self register) by selecting the "Self-Assign" on the BESA Referee website. Our Assignor's objective is to post BESA games a couple of weeks in advance of the games. Once you've completed self registration and been activated by the BESA Referee Assignor, you may view and request games via the website. Please adhere to the assignment rules posted on our website. Don't be disappointed if you don't get the exact games and/or positions you request. It's not an easy task to accommodate everyone's requests while trying to balance the workload, provide opportunities for challenging assignments, and more importantly, meet the needs of the games by assigning qualified, competent officials.

How much do referees make and when do we get paid?

BESA referee pay rates are published on our website. The referee is to be paid via GoPay information that is tied to the gameofficials.net account. Direct deposit payments will usually happen by the Thursday after the weekend games.

What games/positions should I request to start?

If you are new to officiating, your first experience can be either working as a single referee at the 4v4 (5U-8U) games or working as an assistant referee (AR) at the U9/U10 level. Further progression will then generally require evaluation by a senior referee and/or the BESA Referee Assignor. In any case, it's important that you communicate your goals or desires to the BESA Referee Assignor. There is no mandatory time to move from an A/R to a Center Referee. This is based on the comfort and confidence of the referee.

If you are an experienced official, the BESA Referee Assignor will contact you to discuss your experience and determine your appropriate match level.

Will the other BESA referees help me?

In 2004 BESA started a mentoring program to help new referees. Senior referees will be assigned to observe and assist new referees, and provide positive, constructive feedback. Don't be intimidated by a mentor and don't be afraid to ask questions. They're there to help you become a better referee!

Does BESA reimburse referees for any expenses?

In 2004 the BESA board approved a referee reimbursement policy. This policy provides for reimbursement of student clinic fees for new referees and, for existing referees that upgrade (i.e., Grassroots to Grassroots Advanced), upon proof of having worked ten BESA games within a year of completing the clinic. Download a BESA Referee Reimbursement Request Form from the BESA Referee site and follow the directions to request reimbursement of your student clinic fees. Note that BESA does not reimburse any USSF registration or insurance fees, or equipment expenses.

Do I have to attend the BESA Referee Meetings?

BESA generally conducts at least one referee meeting prior to each season. The preseason meeting covers important information such as Law changes as well as any BESA rule changes.

Do I have to recertify every year to continue officiating?

According to the NTSSA Referee Policy Manual, all referees must pass an annual recertification test. NTSSA and BESA provide opportunities for training and testing typically in the summer and fall of each year. Schedules and details will be posted on the BESA Referee site and the NTSSA website.

Are there special rules for BESA games?

Yes, there are modified rules for each level of play within BESA. It is recommended that you download, become familiar with, and carry with you a copy of the BESA Modified Playing Rules (one page spreadsheet) posted on our BESA Ref site.

What does BESA expect of referees?

BESA expectations for referees are listed on the BESA Ref site.

Where can I get additional information?

In addition to our referee forms and BESA Modified Playing Rules, the BESA Ref site contains a wealth of information such maps to our fields, field conditions, rainout information, BESA By-laws, and our Zero Tolerance Policy. It also has links to the NTSSA and USSF websites. If our website doesn't provide the answer to your question, feel free to contact the BESA Director of Officials at off@besasoccer.com!