

U . S . S O C C E R F E D E R A T I O N



# **Referee License Requirements for 2020-21**

## **U.S. Soccer Referee Program**



# REFEREE PATHWAY





**IT BEGINS WITH A REFEREE**

**REFEREE**



# REFEREE PATHWAY



# GRASSROOTS LICENSE CERTIFICATION



| GRASSROOTS CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AGE                                   | 13 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER                                                                               |
| ENROLLMENT                            | REGISTRATION                                                                                            |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE              | NA                                                                                                      |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE     | NA                                                                                                      |
| TRAINING                              | ONLINE and ON FIELD EXPERIENCE                                                                          |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE                 | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS<br>NCSI BACKGROUND CHECK (18 yrs. and older) |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST                 | ONLINE – GRASSROOTS TEST                                                                                |
| FITNESS TEST                          | NA – DETERMINED BY COMPETITION                                                                          |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                  | NA                                                                                                      |

GRASSROOTS



REFEREE

# GRASSROOTS LICENSE RE-CERTIFICATION



| GRASSROOT RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                              | REGISTRATION                                                                                           |
| TRAINING                                | ONLINE<br>LOTG UPDATE                                                                                  |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE                   | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIROMENTS<br>NCSI BACKGROUND CHECK (18 yrs. and older) |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST                   | ONLINE - GRASSROOTS RECERT TEST                                                                        |
| FITNESS TEST                            | NA - DETERMINED BY COMPETITION<br>IF APPLICABLE                                                        |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                    | NA                                                                                                     |

GRASSROOTS



REFEREE



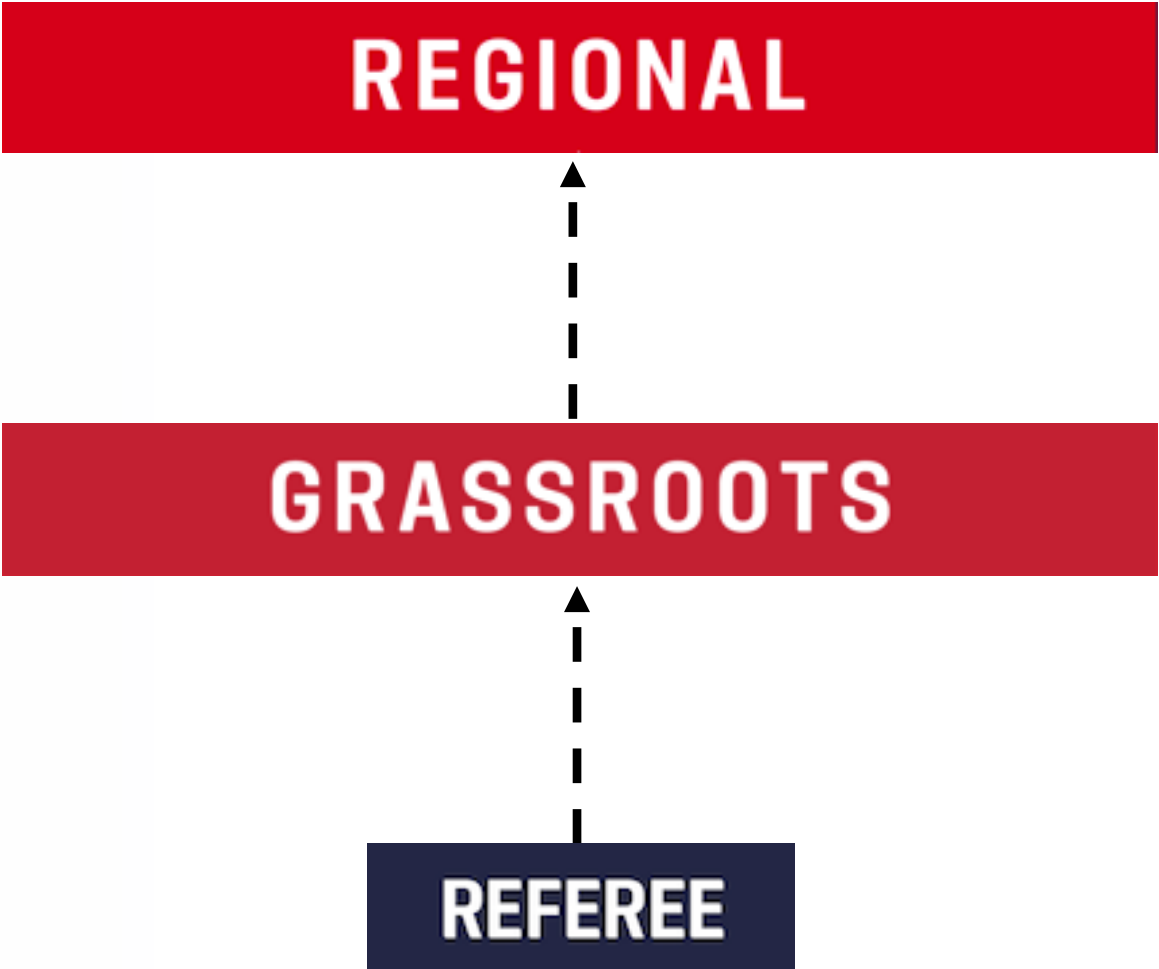
# REFEREE PATHWAY



# REGIONAL REFEREE LICENSE CERTIFICATION



| REGIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AGE                                 | 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ENROLLMENT                          | REGISTRATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE            | 50 GAMES AS A REFEREE AND 25 AS AN ASSISTANT REFEREE AT THE LOCAL ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL                                                                                                                                        |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE   | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS GRASSROOTS REFEREE                                                                                                                                                                 |
| TRAINING                            | REGIONAL REFEREE COURSE AND ON FIELD EXPERIENCE                                                                                                                                                                              |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE               | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIROMENTS<br>NCSI BACKGROUND CHECK                                                                                                                                           |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST               | ONLINE - REGIONAL TEST                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| FITNESS TEST                        | SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS<br>(FIFA WOMEN'S REFEREE TEST)<br>Male - Category 1<br>Female - Category 3                                                                                                                           |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING EVALUATIONS AS A REFEREE. TWO AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL, ONE AT THE HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 or U19 - 2 X 45-minute halves)<br>EVALUATIONS MUST BE DONE BY THREE (3) DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES |

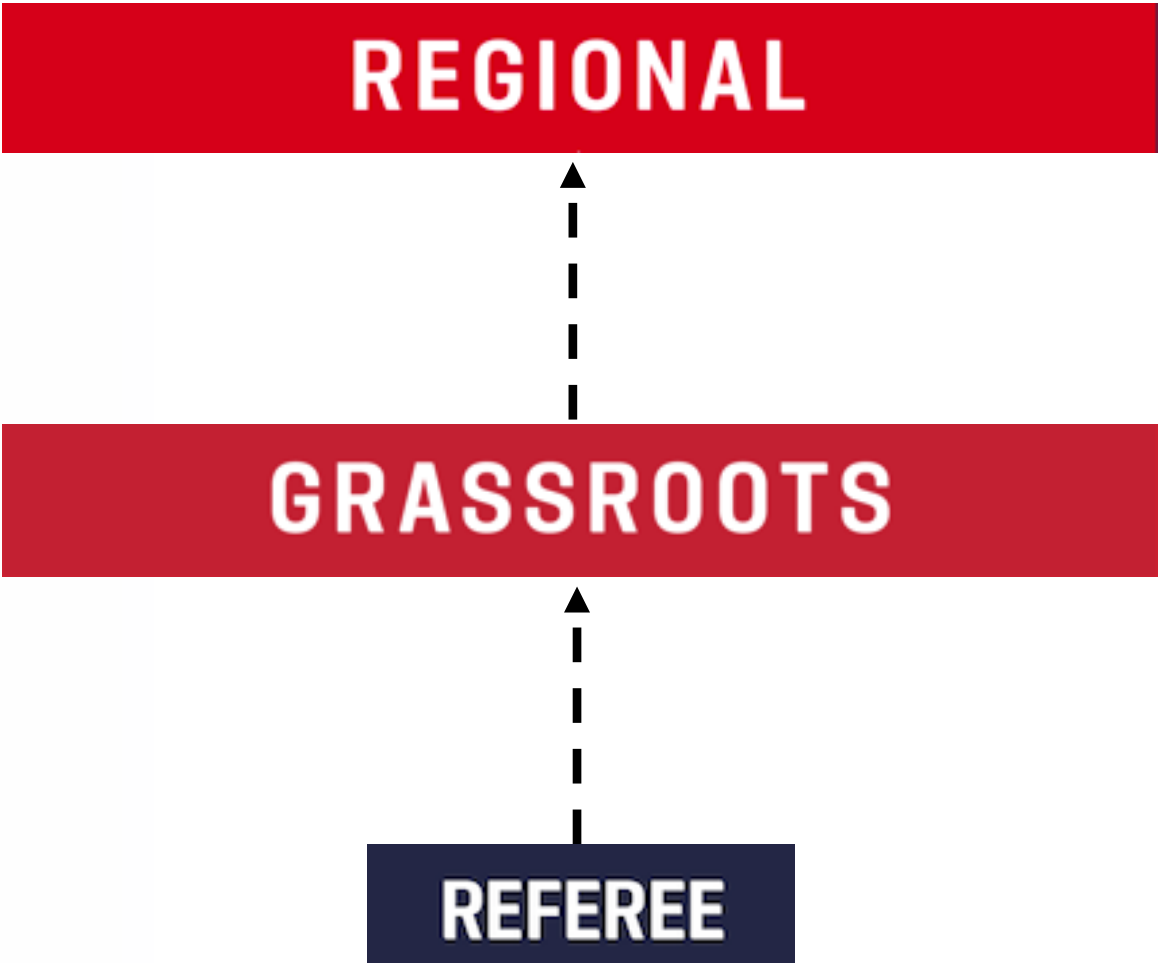




# REGIONAL REFEREE LICENSE RE-CERTIFICATION



| REGIONAL RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                             | REGISTRATION                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| TRAINING                               | <b>ONLINE</b> AND ON FIELD EXPERIENCE                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE                  | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS<br>NCSI BACKGROUND CHECK                                                                                                                                      |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST                  | <b>ONLINE – REGIONAL RECERT TEST</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| FITNESS                                | SPRINT / INTERVAL TESTS<br>(FIFA WOMEN’S REFEREE TEST)<br>Male - Category 1<br>Female - Category 3                                                                                                                       |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                   | TWO (2) PASSING EVALUATIONS AS A REFEREE.<br>ONE AT THE ADULT AMATEUR LEVEL AND ONE AT THE<br>HIGHEST YOUTH LEVEL (U18 or U19 - 2 X 45-minute halves)<br>EVALUTIONS MUST BE DONE BY TWO (2)<br>DIFFERENT REFEREE COACHES |



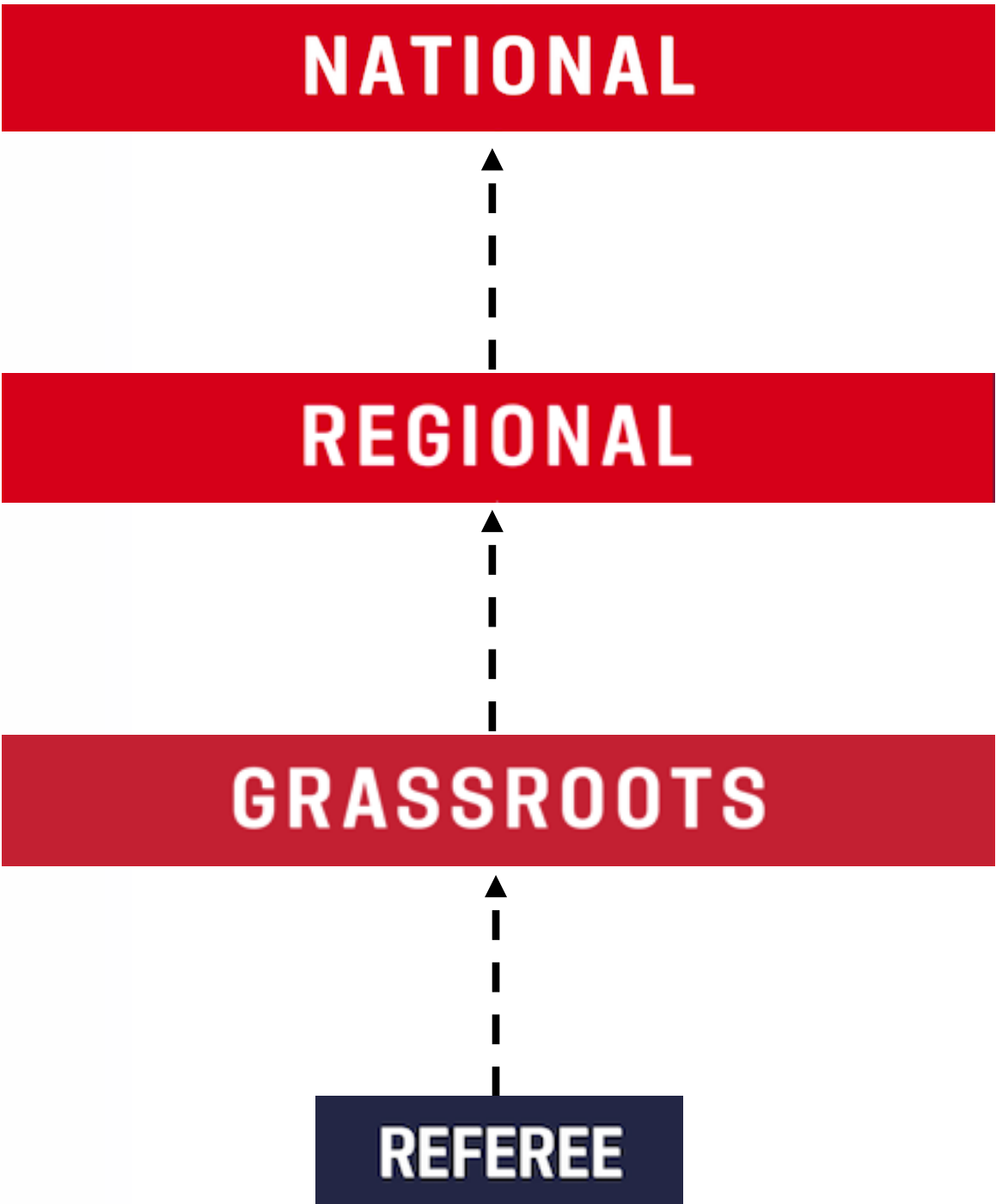
# REFEREE PATHWAY



# NATIONAL REFEREE / ASSISTANT REFEREE LICENSE CERTIFICATION



| NATIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                          | SELECTED BY U.S. SOCCER                                                                                                        |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE            | 100 GAMES AT THE ADULT AMATUER LEVEL REFEREE (50) AND ASSISTANT REFEREE (50)                                                   |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE   | MINIMUM OF TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS REGIONAL REFEREE                                                                       |
| TRAINING                            | NATIONAL CAMP                                                                                                                  |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE               | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI)                                 |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST               | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                                                         |
| FITNESS TEST                        | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)<br>Category 1                                                                   |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING NATIONAL EVALUATIONS IN SELECTED TRACK<br>MUST BE BY THREE (3) DIFFERENT NATIONAL REFEREE COACHES |

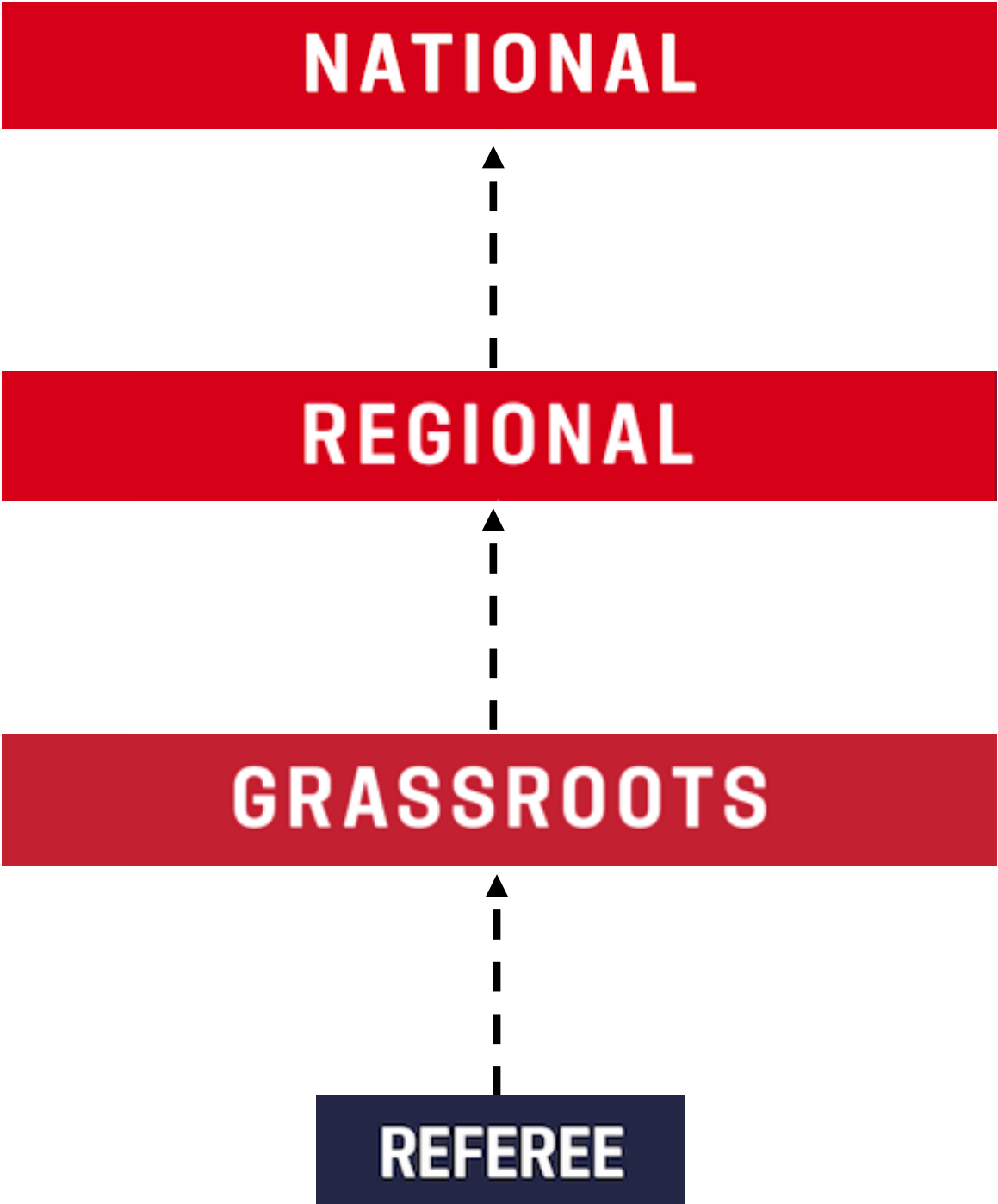




# NATIONAL REFEREE / ASSISTANT REFEREE LICENSE RE-CERTIFICATION



| NATIONAL RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                             | SELECTED BY U.S. SOCCER                                                                                                                                                            |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE               | 12 GAMES AS A REFEREE OR 12 GAMES AS AN ASSISTANT REFEREE IN AMATEUR ADULT GAMES OR HIGHER LEVEL (PROFESSIONAL or INTERNATIONAL)                                                   |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE      | PREVIOUS YEAR AS A NATIONAL OFFICIAL                                                                                                                                               |
| TRAINING                               | NATIONAL CAMP                                                                                                                                                                      |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE                  | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIROMENTS<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI)                                                                                      |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST                  | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                                                                                                             |
| FITNESS TEST                           | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)<br>Category 1                                                                                                                       |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                   | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING NATIONAL EVALUATIONS IN SELECTED TRACK BY THREE (3) DIFFERENT NATIONAL REFEREE COACHES<br>ADULT GAMES or HIGHER LEVEL (PROFESSIONAL or INTERNATIONAL) |



# REFEREE PATHWAY



# P.R.O. LICENSE CERTIFICATION



| P.R.O. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                        | SELECTED BY P.R.O.                                                                            |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE          | AS DETERMINED BY P.R.O.                                                                       |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE | MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS AS NATIONAL REFEREE                                                        |
| TRAINING                          | PRO PRESEASON CAMP                                                                            |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE             | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIROMENTS<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI) |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST             | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                        |
| FITNESS TEST                      | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)                                                |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION              | BASED ON PRO/PSRA CBA                                                                         |





# P.R.O. LICENSE RE-CERTIFICATION



| P.R.O. RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                           | SELECTED BY PRO                                                                               |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE             | AS DETERMINED BY P.R.O.                                                                       |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE    | MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS AS NATIONAL OFFICIAL                                                       |
| TRAINING                             | PRO PRESEASON CAMP                                                                            |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE                | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIROMENTS<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI) |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST                | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                        |
| FITNESS TEST                         | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)                                                |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION                 | BASED ON P.R.O./PSRA CBA                                                                      |



# REFEREE PATHWAY

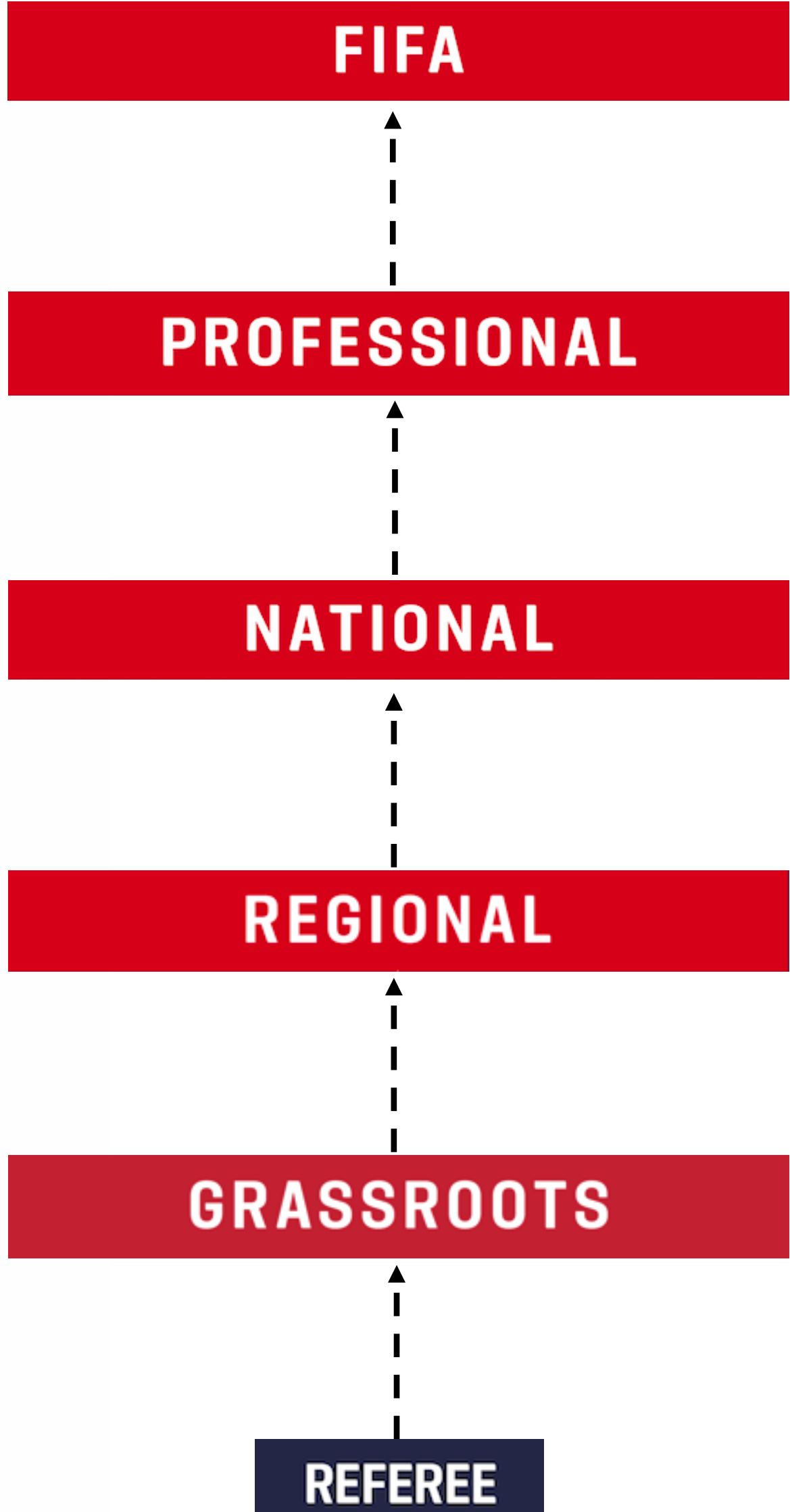




# FIFA CERTIFICATION



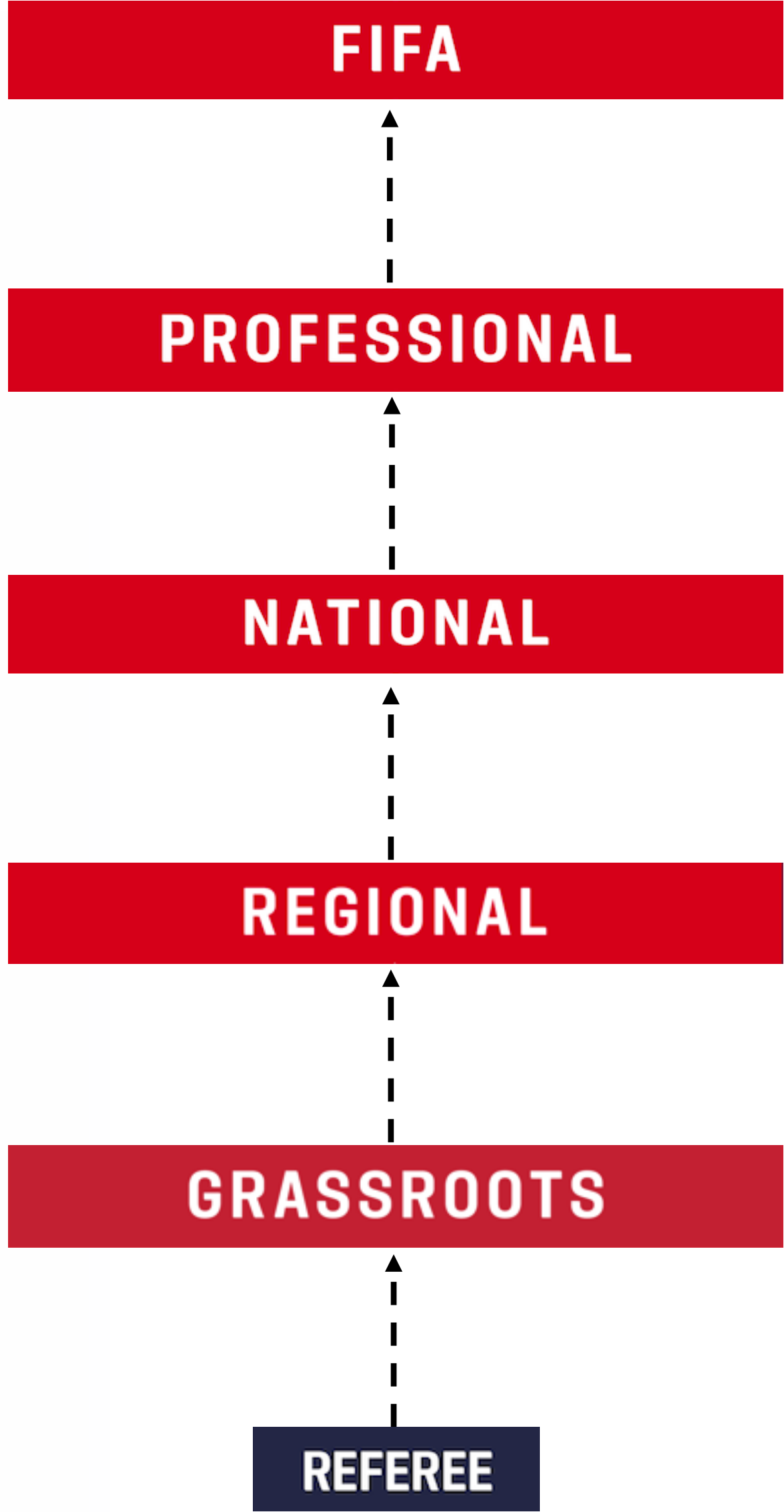
| FIFA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS   |                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                        | RECOMMENDED BY U.S. SOCCER REFCO<br>APPROVED BY USSF BOD                                                           |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE          | TWO (2) YEARS WORKING IN THE DIVISION I<br>PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES                                                    |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE | MINIMUM OF TWO (2) YEARS<br>AS PROFESSIONAL REFEREE                                                                |
| TRAINING                          | P.R.O. PRESEASON CAMP                                                                                              |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE             | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI)                     |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST             | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                                             |
| FITNESS TEST                      | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)                                                                     |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION              | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING NATIONAL<br>EVALUATIONS OR PRO REQUIREMENT TO WORK<br>DIVISION I PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES |



# FIFA RE-CERTIFICATION



| FIFA RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                         | RECOMMENDED BY U.S. SOCCER REFCO<br>APPROVED BY USSF BOD                                                           |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE           | TWO (2) YEARS WORKING IN THE DIVISION I<br>PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES                                                    |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE  | MINIMUM OF TWO (2) YEARS<br>AS PROFESSIONAL REFEREE                                                                |
| TRAINING                           | P.R.O. PRESEASON CAMP                                                                                              |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE              | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE SOCCER TRAINING<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI)                                      |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST              | ONLINE - NATIONAL TEST                                                                                             |
| FITNESS TEST                       | FIFA FITNESS TEST<br>(TRACK & GENDER SPECIFIC)                                                                     |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION               | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) PASSING NATIONAL<br>EVALUATIONS OR PRO REQUIREMENT TO WORK<br>DIVISION I PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES |





# REFEREE PATHWAY

REFEREE

FIFA

ASSISTANT  
REFEREE

REFEREE

PROFESSIONAL

ASSISTANT  
REFEREE

REFEREE

NATIONAL

ASSISTANT  
REFEREE

REGIONAL

GRASSROOTS



# EMERITUS REFEREES – REGIONAL & NATIONAL



## EMERITUS CERIFICATION and RE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

|                                   |                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENROLLMENT                        | MINIMUM AGE<br>45 OR PLDER                                                    |
| PREVIOUS GAME EXPERIENCE          | NA                                                                            |
| PREVIOUS CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE | MINIMUM OF THREE (3) YEARS<br>AS REGIONAL OR NATIONAL REFEREE                 |
| TRAINING                          | REGIONAL RECERTIFICATION COURSE                                               |
| SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE             | SAFESPORT TRAINED<br>SAFE SOCCER TRAINING<br>NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK (NCSI) |
| LAWS OF THE GAME TEST             | ONLINE REGIONAL TEST                                                          |
| FITNESS TEST                      | NA                                                                            |
| PRACTICAL EVALUATION              | NA                                                                            |

**The Emeritus License  
is a retirement license.**

**It is not intended to circumvent the  
fitness test or evaluations requirements  
for certification.**

**The Emeritus License is outside  
the Referee Pathway.**

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**[ussoccer.com/referee-program](https://ussoccer.com/referee-program)**