**I am a Certified Soccer Referee…What is next?**

Your first step to getting on the pitch is to **register with your local referee association** through their respective website. I have included some of the areas below - if your area is not listed, log onto [www.wareferees.org](http://www.wareferees.org) click pull down tab Assignor: Assignors List. Search by City and you can see Associations and Assignors in your area. Yes…You can register with multiple associations!

**North Chapter Referee Association** (Snohomish County) <https://www.ncrefs.org/register>

**Seattle Referee Association** (Seattle Metro) <https://www.seattlerefs.org/register>

**Northshore Referee Group** (Bothell / Woodinville) <https://www.northshoresoccer.org/joinnysa>

**East King County Referee Association** (Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue) <https://www.ekcsra.org/register>

**Lake Washington Youth Soccer Referee Association** <http://referees.lwysa.org/register>

**NW Soccer Officials Referee Association** (Renton, Auburn, Maple Valley) <https://www.skcsra.org/register>

**Trias Referee Association** (Burien, West Seattle) <https://www.triassoccercentral.org/register>

**Skagit Valley Referee Association** (Skagit/Island County) <http://www.skagitrefs.org/register>

**Your Uniform**

Step two is your uniform. There are several sources online for your Referee Uniform and Equipment. All offer starter kits that will include everything you need to get started. Official Sports International is the official supplier for US Soccer, but prices are a premium and you do not need to invest in professional equipment when doing Youth soccer matches.

* Official Sports International <http://officialsports.com/>
* Winners Sports (Bellevue store and Online) <https://winnerssportswear.com/>
* Referee Store <https://www.refereestore.com/>

**What equipment will I need to get started?** Most starter Kits consist of a yellow Jersey, Black Shorts, Black Socks (either 3 stripes or Logo). Expanded kits include a whistle, a “wallet” for score keeping, Assistant Referee flags and an equipment bag.

**Jersey(s)**: Referees are required to have a Yellow Jersey- either long sleeve or short sleeve. With our weather it is always nice to have a long sleeve if you plan on doing games during the fall/winter weather. If you opt for multiple jersey colors - consider Green, or Red. Blue and Black are rarely worn.

**Socks**: Black, either logo or the three-stripe sock is fine. There are more expensive socks available, but again not required. Consider getting a couple pairs of socks as we often change between matches if they get wet.

**Shorts**: Black. You need solid black shorts with no logo, other than the USSF and OSI if you purchase the OSI shorts. Most shorts have two front and rear pockets with Velcro on the back pockets.

**Watch**: Do not buy expensive watches to wear on the field. Most inexpensive watches ($25-35) will allow you to set a timer (Countdown) of minutes or to (Count up) Chrono. Do not use stop watches around your neck or phones in our pocket.

**Referee Wallet**: You will need something to keep track of the score and other match info. A two-fold wallet will fit in your jersey or shorts pocket easily and has a score pad with yellow and red cards.

**Whistle**: You will need at least one pea-less whistle. A lanyard helps keep you from dropping your whistle.

**Flags**: A set of Assistant Referee flags. Again, an inexpensive set will do. Most starter kits have Flags included.

**Referee Bag**: A solid black duffel bag or backpack to keep your gear and snacks in at the field.

**Games:** **Where are they?**

Most Referee Associations’ list Fall, Winter, and Spring League soccer matches in their area on their respective websites. **Spring and Summer Soccer tournaments** may be listed there too, but all tournaments can be found at**:**

<http://www.washingtonyouthsoccer.org/tournaments/sanctioned_tournaments/current_sanctioned_tournaments/>

**Rules of Competition: Know your Rules!!** Are yourefereeing a recreational game, select game (NPSL), premier game (RCL, PSPL), or US Soccer game (DA or ECNL)? What age group? All these matches/leagues can have different modifications to the Laws of the Game. If you do not know, ask the Assignor. Links to Rules of Competition for leagues in Snohomish County are listed below:

**NCYSA Recreational Rules:** **https://www.ncyouthsoccer.com/rules-of-the-game**

**RCL:** **https://washingtonyouthsoccer.org/leagues/regional-club-league/**

**WPL: http://psplsoccer.com/wpl-departments/clubs-1/manager-s-corner/resources/league-rules**

**NPSL: https://www.northpugetsoundleague.org/resources**

**USSF Laws of the Game** can be downloaded from the US Soccer website to your computer or phone:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game>

**Referee Assignors Guidelines for Youth Referees and Conflicts of Interest:**

When starting matches as a new referee, referee assignors would like to see Center referees be 2 years older than the age they are officiating i.e., 13 years old to do U11. Assistant Referees can referee up to their age. As you gain more experience, confidence, and ability to keep up with play, these limits can be relaxed some, but rarely are youth referees officiating above their age. This is due to liability issues with player safety.

Do not officiate a relative’s match i.e., Brother/Sister/Cousin. This is a Conflict of Interest in Officiating. **Exception:** Mod matches (U8-U10). If no referee is assigned to a Mod match, and you are there to watch your relatives’ match, let the opposing coach know that you are a referee, and you have a relative on the other team. If opposing coach agrees, then you can referee the match. If opposing coach does not agree, then you cannot officiate the match. The coaches will decide an alternate official. Let the appropriate Referee Assignor of the home team know after completion of the match so you can be assigned the match for pay. I would not recommend it at other ages or levels. Ask the Assignor of the match if you are not sure about Conflict-of-Interest questions.

 Questions? Contact your instructor of this clinic: Vernon Winters – wgonsho@hotmail.com 425-879-7060 call/text.