

## Understanding a “Course”

In Game Officials language, “Course” has a much broader interpretation than the normal expectation that one might have. So when you register for a course, it may not involve attendance at a class at all. Some examples:

- Completing an online test might be a “course.” So if you register for that course, you’ll be provided a link to a written test.
- USSF Registration might be a separate “course.” If you register for that, you’ll be taken to a link where you can pay your registration fees and submit your registration for the new year.
- Signing up to attend a classroom training session is obviously a “course.”
- Signing up for an online training session is a “course.”
- There is also the ability to combine activities into one course. For example, there may be a Course for Grade 8 recert training, registration, and written testing. When you sign up for that course, the system will collect your USSF registration fee. It will register you for a specific class (or it might direct you to an online training program). It will also give you access to your recertification test. Once you complete all of the requirements, the course instructor or administrator will mark you as having met the requirements and your registration will be finalized.

So when you are looking to do something on Game Officials (register, take a test, etc.), log in as a Referee and click on “Courses” in the Main Menu on the left side of the screen. A window will display various categories of courses. We’ll limit this discussion only to Referee Courses.

When you click on the link for Referee Courses, the system will display any options that are available to your grade. So, for example, if you are a Grade 8 referee, you might see “courses” for Recertification Training, Grade 8 Recertification Testing, Upgrade Testing from Grade 8 to Grade 7 ... there might be a lot of options there. However, if you are a Grade 7 referee, you won’t see the option for Grade 8 Recertification Testing, but you will see Grade 7 Recertification Testing and “Upgrade testing from Grade 7 to Grade 6.” (NOTE: These are just examples for illustration. If you don’t see these options, it doesn’t mean that you did something wrong!)

Remember - the system is set up to collect fees when appropriate. When you look at the information for a course, it will either have “N/A” next to Cost (meaning you won’t be charged), or it will show an amount or amounts (based on grade). If you get to a page that asks for credit card information, that’s a dead giveaway that it costs something. If you enter the information and confirm, your credit card will be billed. (Never fear - we can always fix errors, but an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and all that.)

Certain courses may be available to additional grades through use of an Override Code, allowing individuals to register for courses above (or below) their grade. If you wish to sign up for a course that is visible to you but says that your current grade doesn’t allow you to register, contact the Course Contact and request the override code.