



Grading System for Match Official Performance

The following is a summary of the performance and grading system levels to be used consistently at all referee grade levels for games assigned by U.S. Soccer. As a result, all grade levels will be scored/graded using the same numeric system.

- All games are ratable and should be written up and documented by the assessor.
- The minimal passing score for all levels is 70.
- A score of 69 or less represents an unacceptable performance.
- The score range is the same whether the game assessment is for game maintenance or for upgrade.
- For National Candidates and National Referees, refer to the U.S. Soccer National Assessment Policy for further information relative to grading these levels of officials.

Description	Grade Range	Comments
Outstanding	81+	The referee showed exceptional technical and man management skills in a match which was a major test of his/her abilities. Standard of control and law application must be of the highest standard with all key match incidents judged correctly. Disciplinary control must be consistent, credible, and wholly correct. All technical supporting areas, including advantage application, teamwork, work rate, and positioning must be of the highest quality. A very rare performance for the level of game assigned. The match should have represented a difficult to very difficult challenge for the referee.
Very Good	76 – 80	The referee demonstrated a high level of skill in controlling a match which is a demanding test of his/her refereeing ability. Standard of control and law application must be above normal with key match incidents judged correctly. Player management, disciplinary control and other technical areas should be of the highest standard. No corrective advice on match control or law application will be required but very minor aspects of decision-making accuracy might be questioned or minor technical advice may be offered. The referee should have been challenged with solving or preventing at least one difficult decision. The match should have represented a difficult challenge for the referee.

**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
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Description	Grade Range	Comments
Acceptable	70 – 75	<p>The referee demonstrated his/her ability to control a competitive match; a standard performance where the standard of control and law application should be credible. A referee who has performed well overall but who has made a key error, that did not affect the outcome of the game, may fit this category. Player management, disciplinary control and technical requirements should be of good standard but some advice and/or area(s) for improvement will be covered.</p> <p>A game that doesn't present as many challenges should be reflected in comments with a lower score and rating (easy, score range between 70-74). Easy games still provide learning opportunities and assessors are directed to identify and document such as applicable. If the game was for an upgrade assessment, the assessor should simply note that additional evaluation would be necessary.</p>
Not Acceptable	69 or less	<p>The referee is inconsistent in his/her decision-making and dealing with players or fails to deal correctly with major incidents. Performance was below expectation. This may be the result of an error on key match incidents affecting the outcome of the match or where application of the law and/or control require corrective action. It may also be a reflection of other technical abilities generally not matching the standard expectation. Alternatively there are multiple errors in accuracy of decision-making with inconsistent law application. Control or level of involvement may not have matched the temperature of the game and there may be significant technical deficiencies that will require utmost attention for the future. Multiple errors affecting the outcome of the match may have weakened performance credibility. Clear advice and/or areas for improvement will be required in the report. The match was made difficult because of the referees' performance.</p>