

Men's Game Officials Certification and Training FAQ

Is the Men's Training & Certification Overview available online?

Yes it is available for anyone to view. You can go to the direct link here or go to the Men's Officials Resource page where you can view the overview plus other helpful resources including the evaluation forms for each level.

Has a physical fitness assessment component been considered for any level of USL certification?

A physical fitness assessment has been discussed and US Lacrosse continues to evaluate the best course of action. USL will continue to offer as many resources to officials as we can. Whether or not a physical fitness aspect is ever going to be tied to certification in the future remains to be seen. FIL is currently conducting research to develop a lacrosse specific fitness test; USL will wait for those results before exploring future options.

What do other states and districts charge for training classes?

Our goal at US Lacrosse is to provide education and training at the lowest possible cost to officials. Becoming a lacrosse official can be expensive and USL provides many free resources to help lessen those costs. Since all areas vary in what they charge, and game fees for officiating vary just as widely, local groups should strive to keep the initial cost of training and equipment to less than two or three game fees.

Is required Level 1, 2 and 3 classroom times done with all three levels combined?

Some of the topics required to be covered at each level are the same at all levels for new certifications and officials' who are recertifying. It depends on the time your group has and how you choose to structure training. The Officials Education Program (OEP) recommends holding them separately as newer officials may feel intimidated in the classroom with veteran officials and may not ask the appropriate questions that newer officials may need answered. Likewise, veteran officials may want to have in-depth conversations that new officials are not prepared to understand.

When are rulebooks mailed?

Rule book fulfillment is major effort at US Lacrosse and requires a great deal of coordination both inside the organization as well as externally with the rule making bodies. USL strives to get officials' rulebooks out as soon as possible and prior to local rule interpretation meetings. Typically, rulebooks for the upcoming season go out with the December edition of lacrosse magazine for those officials who renewed their membership prior to the 9/30 deadline.

Is there training for on-field evaluators?

Yes the Certified Observers Program trains interested observers from around the country on best practices for observers (also known as evaluators or raters) through an online course and an annual webinar. Certified Observers receive access to the US Lacrosse Resource Library which has several materials available for order and download to assist observers on the field.

If we have an adult who only wants to officiate U15 and under games, how do we certify them?

If the official is under the age of 18 they are considered a junior official. An adult over the age of 18 should be brought through the Level 1 certification process at minimum, regardless of the age group they are officiating.

Has the issue of training and certification requirements been discussed with the NFHS?

Yes, US Lacrosse and the NFHS continue to discuss how to best serve the lacrosse officials community. A major part of that discussion has been standardized training and certification for officials. USL has established the most sport specific comprehensive training program for officials and have been working closely with the NFHS over the past several years. In the meantime USL encourages states that are sanctioned to support the USL standardization and certification goals. If you are a trainer, your voice matters and will be heard so please continue to tell both US Lacrosse and the NFHS how important standardization and certification are to the game, it will help achieve a larger more collaborative effort nationwide.

Can some of the L1 classroom training be done with an online course?

Yes, US Lacrosse developed the online course in 2012. This course is a requirement for Level 1 officials and will supplement, but does not replace, the necessary in-person classroom time.

What is the preferred duration before recertification?

There is a recertification process that officials must complete each year. Classroom and the annual rules test are the core requirements for recertification annually. Currently, an on-field evaluation is not a requirement for recertification at a current level. Local associations are free to determine when officials need to go through the on-field evaluation process for recertification at a particular level. For example, a local area may decide to require all Level 1 officials recertifying at Level 1 to go through an on-field evaluation annually, but require Level 2 officials recertifying to only go through the on-field evaluation every other year.

What should we do with veteran officials who don't care to certify or recertify?

This is up to the local area. But explain to them the importance of on-going education and development to provide the best experience for the young student athletes playing the game. Some areas may decide that these officials can no longer work games or work at particular levels. Keep in mind that all officials will need to go through the Level 1 certification and annual recertification as basic competency to officiate games.

Are more LAREDO's being planned for the future to coincide with the certification levels?

Yes more LAREDO's are being planned to coincide with this certification program. Keep an eye out in the monthly officials' newsletters and on the USL Programs and Clinics page for updated locations and dates.

What is the process for having a LAREDO in your area?

First read everything on the USL Programs and Clinics page. Then contact the OEP program at officials@uslacrosse.org. Our staff will provide more information in the process of bringing one to your area if your application is approved.

Is there grandfathering for Level 2 officials?

The training group tasked with designing and creating the new certification program felt it was best to limit grandfathering. Local areas may grandfather:

- Officials with previous training and experience may be certified at Level 1 without completing the on-field evaluation component.
- Current NILOA officials will be grandfathered in as Level 3 officials. These officials will then need to go through the Level 3 recertification process for future seasons.

Do you have to be a USL member in order to take the USL Tests online?

Yes, you must be a member of US Lacrosse to utilize the on-line format of the test. However, the test is also available to anyone on-line in PDF format. If this option is used then the local trainer will need to grade and report the score accordingly. If trainees want their score stored and attached to their record then the test must be taken on-line.

Can alternatives to the USL test be used?

They can be but they will not count towards certification. In an effort to standardize the training across the country OEP felt it was best to utilize one standard test across the board. Local associations are encouraged to require more than what US Lacrosse is requiring however, completion of the USL test annually will continue to be a core requirement.

What if I still have questions regarding education and training of officials in my area?

You can contact us at officials@uslacrosse.org our staff will answer any questions you may have and assist you with developing a program to train officials in your area.