



Referee Rating and Certification Criteria

OVERVIEW

There are six (6) rating and certification levels for Referees in the United States. This document provides information about how to achieve and maintain each of those levels.

Certification level descriptions and criteria are subject to change based on curriculum modifications, rule changes and interpretations, and the needs of USA Water Polo as the governing body of the sport in the United States. Modifications are subject to approval by the USAWP Director of Referees, the National Zone Head Referees (ZHR), and the USA Water Polo Referee Association's Delegate/Evaluator Corp (DEC).

Note: The term "Certification Period" refers to the calendar year(s) during which the Certification Criteria was met. Any Instructional or Practical requirements met after November 1 of any calendar year may be applied to the following year. Criteria met during any Certification Period shall be valid and will not expire until May 1 of the following calendar year. For example, Certification Criteria met during calendar year 2016 will be valid until May 1, 2017.

THE DELEGATE/EVALUATOR CORP

Observations of referees and evaluations of graded games will be performed by a group of National and Zone-based individuals that will be referred to as the "Delegate/Evaluator Corp" (DEC).

The Delegate/Evaluators will be trained and authorized under the jurisdiction of the USA Water Polo Referee Association and the Director of Referees to ensure standardization of evaluation and grading criteria. A complete listing of those Delegate/Evaluators along with their contact information will be posted on the USA Water Polo website and on the USA Water Polo Referee Association Training Site.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS

There are currently two (2) options available to meet the Instructional Criteria.

1. Online training: The "USAWPR Basic Certification Tutorial" is a no cost eLearning experience.
2. In person school: USA Water Polo Referee Certification Schools are scheduled throughout the year in each of the zones; a registration fee may apply.

Both options include text, videos, graphic illustrations, and rely heavily on student interaction through required participation in instructor-generated discussions. They also include a written test.

Referees may access the online training or consult a schedule of USAWP Referee Certification Schools, including applicable fees, if any, on www.usawaterpolo.org and www.usawpr.com.

At least one of these components will be required every Certification Period, depending on the referee's level of certification, in addition to on-deck training and observation along with written evaluations of graded games which are outlined below as "Practical Components."

USA Water Polo National Office

2124 Main Street, Suite 240 | Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Phone: 714.500.5445 | Fax: 714.960.2431

usawaterpolo.org





PRACTICAL COMPONENTS

To achieve or maintain a certain Referee Rating/Certification Level, a referee will be required to complete a minimum number of hours observed “on deck” as a referee and a number of “graded” games. The hours of observation and the number of “graded” games (written evaluations) will vary depending on the Level of Certification.

The “difficulty level” of graded games will be factored as part of the process and will be used to sort grades into categories. The final determination is with the member of the Delegate/Evaluator Corp doing the grading.

General Categories of graded games:

“Easy”	Level 1
“Medium”	Level 2-3
“Difficult”	Level 3-4

The following are **EXAMPLES** of the type of games that may be considered for grading at the different levels of difficulty, consult your Zone Head Referee for more information.

“Easy” to “Medium”

- Sanctioned Zone-based Age Group Tournaments or Leagues
- Zone-based USAWP Sanctioned Tournaments/Events including NJO Qualifications
- High School Regular Season Games
- USAWP Rocktober Classic and Champions Cup

“Medium” to “Difficult”

- National Team Selection Camps and Tournaments (NTSC)
- ODP National Championship
- High School Championship Playoff Round Games
- Community/Club College Regular Season or Championship Games
- National Junior Olympic Championship and/or Advancement Games
- Master’s National Championship Advancement and/or Championship Games
- Collegiate Varsity Regular Season Games
- International Tournament, Scrimmage, or Exhibition Games
- USAWP Fisher Cup or MSNT National League Games
- USAWP WSNT Collegiate Cup
- National Championship Tournament (Final Game 18/U)
- National Championship Tournament (Advancement Games 20/U or Older)
- Community/Club College Championship Games
- Collegiate Varsity Regular Season and/or Conference Championship Games
- Open National Championship Advancement and/or Championship Games
- Collegiate National Championship
- Senior Level International Tournament, Scrimmage, or Exhibition Games

USA Water Polo National Office

2124 Main Street, Suite 240 | Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Phone: 714.500.5445 | Fax: 714.960.2431

usawaterpolo.org





CERTIFICATION LEVELS

ROOKIE - Level I (Provisional) Referee Rating

A referee shall be certified as a Rookie - Level I (Provisional) referee if he or she has within the most recent Certification Period:

Instructional – Completed the “Basic Certification Tutorial” with the USA Water Polo Referees Association, (www.uswpr.com), on line, including any rules tests associated with that course AND attended an in-person Referee Certification School sponsored by USAWPR.

Practical - Completed 4-6 hours of documented satisfactory “on-deck” observation as authorized by their ZHR or designated representative AND maintained current year USA Water Polo “Referee” or “Coach/Referee” membership.

Level I – Full Certification Referee Rating and Maintenance

A referee shall be certified as a Level I – Full Certification Referee if they have been certified as a “Rookie – Level 1” Referee for a period of 90 days or have equivalent experience as determined by their ZHR AND met the following Criteria within the current certification period:

Instructional – Successfully complete a USA Water Polo Referee Certification School in-person along with any and all associated rules tests every two years in addition to any and all on line supplemental materials and testing annually.

Practical – Completed 10 hours of documented satisfactory “on-deck” observation as authorized by ZHR (these hours may include “graded” games) AND Maintained current year USA Water Polo “Referee” or “Coach/Referee” membership. Required attendance and participation in ODP.

Level II Referee Rating and Maintenance

A referee shall be certified as a Level II referee if they have been certified as a Level I Referee for one (1) year and met the following Criteria during the current certification period:

Instructional – Successfully complete a USA Water Polo Referee Certification School in-person along with any and all rules tests every two years in addition to any and all on line supplemental materials and testing annually.

Practical – Completed 15 hours of documented satisfactory “on deck” observation, (these hours must include a minimum of 3 “graded” games with a score of at least 75), as authorized by their ZHR, received the recommendation of their ZHR and at least two (2) member of the Zone-based DEC AND maintained current year USA Water Polo “Referee” or “Coach/Referee” membership. Required participation in USA Water Polo ODP or other development programs as determined by the Zone Head Referee. This required participation is over and above the minimum number of documented hours and graded games.





Level III Referee Rating and Maintenance

A referee shall be certified as a Level III referee if they have been certified as a Level II Referee for one (1) year and during the current certification period:

Instructional – Successfully completed a USA Water Polo Referee Certification School in-person along with any and all rules tests every two years in addition to any and all on line supplemental materials and testing annually.

Practical – Completed 25 hours of documented superior “on deck” observation as authorized by their ZHR or a member of the DEC. These hours must include a minimum of 5 graded games with a minimum score of 80. The referee must also have maintained current year USA Water Polo “Referee” or “Coach/Referee” membership, received the endorsement of their ZHR and at least two (2) members of the DEC AND logged a minimum 10 hours of participation in a Zone sponsored Referee Development Program (for example, ODP).

Level IV Referee Rating and Maintenance

A referee shall be certified as a Level IV referee if he or she has been certified as a Level III Referee for one (1) year and during the current certification period:

Instructional – Successfully completed a USA Water Polo Referee Certification School in-person along with any and all associated rules tests every two years in addition to any and all on line supplemental materials and testing annually.

Practical – Completed 50 hours of documented superior “on deck” observation as authorized by the ZHR or a member of the DEC. These hours must include a minimum of 5 graded games with a minimum score of 90. The referee must also have maintained current year USA Water Polo “Referee” or “Coach/Referee” membership and received the endorsement of that referee’s ZHR and at least two members of the National DEC AND logged a minimum of 20 hours of participation in a LEADERSHIP ROLE in a Zone-based or National Sponsored Referee Development Program, such as ODP. A minimum of 10 of those hours must be Zone-based.

Level V Referee Rating

Criteria to achieve and maintain a Level V Certification Rating is under review and shall be subject to approval of the USAWP High Performance Director, USAWP Senior National Team Coaches, and the USAWP Director of Referees.





ADVANCEMENT TO AND RETENTION OF RATING/CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Rating levels will be revised as applicable and posted each year in January. It is the responsibility of the referee to make themselves available for opportunities to meet the practical criteria for each level of certification. A list of Training and Evaluation opportunities in each Zone will be posted on www.usawaterpolo.org and www.usawpr.com.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADVANCEMENT OF RATING/CERTIFICATION LEVEL

Level II or III Certification

To be considered for advancement to Level II or III, the referee must complete the appropriate application form and submit it to their Zone Head Referee (Representative to the National Referee Committee) by November 1 of each calendar year. The application should include documentation of Instructional and Practical experience, including on-deck observation and/or graded games that have met the criteria described at the desired level of advancement.

The USA Water Polo Director of Referees will review applications for advancement and, with recommendations from the National Referee Committee (Zone Head Referees) and the Delegate/Evaluator Corp, approve applications for advancement effective January 1 of the following year, or request that the candidate continue to gather further Instructional or Practical experience.

Level IV Certification

To be considered for advancement to Level IV, the referee must complete the appropriate application form and submit it to their Zone Head Referee (Representative to the National Referee Committee) by January of each calendar year for consideration of advancement the next calendar year.

The referee's Representative will inform the USA Water Polo Director of Referees, the National Referee Committee, and the USAWPRA Delegate/Evaluator Corp to ensure the candidate is tracked and given ample opportunity to meet the practical criteria required for advancement.

Level V Certification

Advancement to Level V (UANA/FINA) Certification shall be at the discretion of the USA Water Polo Director of Referees, the USA Water Polo Olympic Development Program Director, the National Team Coaching Staff, and select members of the National Delegate/Evaluator Corp.

Level IV referees may apply for consideration to the National Director of Referees at any time.

TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF RATING/CERTIFICATION

To maintain any Level of Certification, the referee must submit the appropriate application form to their Zone Head Referee (Representative to the National Referee Committee) by November 1 of each calendar year. The application should include documentation of required Instructional and Practical Criteria for that level of certification.

Contact your Zone Head Referee with questions.

