



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 is continuing 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 their Level 1 & 2 training?

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-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. The current years rule interpretation and concussion video are a requirement for each level. These may be done together or separately. It depends on the time your group has and how you choose to structure training. The Officials Education and Training (OET) recommendation is to hold 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, the trainer should use their discretion.

Will US Lacrosse officials be mailed rule books earlier in the future?

Rule book fulfillment is a priority at US Lacrosse, and it requires a great deal of coordination both inside the organization between departments as well as externally with rule making bodies. USL strives to get officials rulebooks out as soon as possible and prior to local rule interpretation meetings. As USL transitions to a more nimble database the hope is that officials will receive their materials in a timelier manner in the future.



Is there going to be training for on-field evaluators?

OET is working to incorporate more hands on training for trainers and evaluators in the future. OET launched a Train the Rater Clinic on the women's side in 2011 with tremendous success and feedback and will work to do something similar on the men's side in the future.

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. An Adult Youth level of certification has not been developed; the training committee will monitor the need for this moving forward.

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 are hoping that in the future to work more closely with the NFHS. In the meantime USL encourages states that are sanctioned to support the USL standardization and certification goals. As a trainer your voice matters and will be heard so please continue to tell both US Lacrosse and 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 is developing an online course in 2012 with a projected release date for late fall, 2012. This course will be a requirement for Level 1 officials and will supplement the necessary in-person classroom time. Look for announcements on this development throughout the summer and fall of 2012.

What is the preferred duration before recertification?

On the [US Lacrosse Officials Certification Program Outline](#), under each level of certification, 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 Charlie Obermayer at cobermayer@uslacrosse.org. Charlie will provide further information along with the LAREDO Manager and will assist in the process of bringing one to your area.

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 who:

- Officials with previous training and experience may be certified at Level 1 without completing the on-field evaluation component.
- Current COC officials will be grandfathered in as Level 3 officials for 2012. These officials will then need to go through the Level 3 recertification process starting in 2013.

In order to be certified at Level 2 and beyond all officials regardless of experience must complete the minimum requirements for certification at each level including the on-field evaluation component.

Can you still print the training Manual?

Yes, USL is still printing manuals that are available for purchase on the trainer only page of the website. However, manuals are also available as a PDF for trainers to print locally or pass on to the trainees in their district. OET wants to eliminate an extra cost that is inevitably passed along to trainees and make it easier for officials to use and access the document throughout the year.



Do you have to be a USL member in order to take the USL Test 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 and if trainees want their score stored and attached to their record the test must be taken on-line.

Why eliminate the level specific tests in the back of the training manual?

The level specific tests were good for some aspects of the classroom trainings but never delivered the same feedback or training that an on-field evaluation brings. The level specific tests were abandoned in order to put an emphasis on the completion of the on-field evaluations.

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 OET 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.

How do I report to USL that trainees in my area have completed a particular level of training?

Easy! For 2012 download the Trainee Notification Spreadsheet found on the [trainer's only page on US Lacrosse](#). In 2013, US Lacrosse will be introducing a new database where trainers can log-in to their account and update the officials associated with their group in real time. Hopefully, this will make the reporting much easier but for now please fill out the spreadsheet.

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

You can contact Charlie Obermayer with US Lacrosse at cobermayer@uslacrosse.org and he will answer any questions you may have and assist you with developing a program to train officials in your area.