

NFHS Certification Criteria

General:

The minimum criteria to become certified as a NFHS Soccer Official is to be USSF Certified; attend the “Rules Interpretation Clinic” provided by the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA), and pass a written test. The annual clinic is normally held locally in the June time frame. The written test is administered in the mid August time frame. The written test is scored and a passing grade of at least 70% is required.

Attendance at the “rules clinic” and taking the test is only available to existing NFHS Officials and qualified candidates. There is two ways to become a qualified candidate. In order to maintain the quality of NFHS Officials, one of these processes must be followed.

Qualification Process 1:

The prerequisite is that the candidate must be at least 18 years of age, have a current USSF Certification, and have 2 years of officiating experience.

- Notify the Assignor (Mike Truax) that you are interested in becoming a High School Official.
- If the Assignor is receptive, the candidate will be assigned as a referee in a competitive game such as a U14 Boys Division 1 game or above. That game will be observed by member of the Mentoring Committee, or a Board Member.
- The observer of the game will then make recommendations to the NFHS Representative for WMSOA. The NFHS Rep will then notify the candidate of the outcome.

Qualification Process 2:

The prerequisite is that the candidate must be at least 18 years of age, have a current USSF Certification.

- A candidate can be nominated by a member of the Board of Directors, the Mentor Committee, or a senior referee.
- Nominations will be discussed at the next board meeting
- The Board will determine if the nomination will be accepted, or if the candidate will be given a center assignment to be observed and evaluated.
- Results of this process will be communicated to the candidate by the NFHS Representative from WMSOA.