

Officials



Q: How do you become a USATF Certified Official?

A: The first step is to contact Scott Phoenix, USATF Oregon Certification Chair. He can guide you through the steps to becoming certified. Contact Scott: sandcphoenix@gmail.com. [Follow this link](#) for frequently asked questions about becoming an official. [Go here](#) to learn more about certification.

Q: Why do I need the USATF certification if it is not needed to officiate NCAA meets and high school (NFHS) meets?

A: While USATF certification is not a requirement for officiating either of these levels, USATF is the only body offering varied and multiple training through the course of the year. Certified Officials have access to a knowledgeable and experienced body of officials that can provide tips and tutoring. Importantly, USATF provides liability and accident insurance for its officials. You must be certified to officiate USATF Championship Meets. Both the NCAA and NFHS will typically select USATF Certified Officials over those who are not certified.

Q: How do I get paid for officiating?

A: Reach out to USATF Oregon Officials Chair Gibby Reynolds at officials@oregon.usatf.org to be registered on *RefTown*, the online assigning tool where schools, clubs, and other organizations post meets needing officials. Officials using this site are paid.

Q: What are the rules for XYZ?

A: The current USATF Competition Rules are [available online](#).

Q: How do I apply for USATF Championship meets?

A: There is an application process to apply to officiate any of the USATF Championship meets. Announcements are published in the monthly National Officials Committee newsletter when the application window is open. The actual application form is typically available on the National Officials Committee [Dashboard](#).

Q: Why do I have to take the Safe Sport training courses every year?

A: Training in how to be alert to signs of physical, mental, and sexual abuse is critical for anyone who has interactions with youth. Officials have the duty to report suspected abuse, so it is important officials keep up to date on how to identify the various kinds of abuse. Safe Sport certification is required by the USATF in order to be a USATF Certified Official.

Q: Why can't I use a background screening from another organization rather than paying for the USATF background check every two years?

A: The USATF background check is provided by the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI). The NCSI background check screens for a variety of criminal offenses. Not all background checks screen for a variety of offenses. The NCSI background check uses two multi-jurisdictional criminal databases. Not all background checks use multi-jurisdictional databases. The NCSI check includes multiple national watch lists, including a terrorist database. Not all background checks use multiple watch lists.