



USA Volleyball National Referee Candidate Application Information, Instructions, & Checklist 2025-2026 Season

1. Candidates must be in good standing in your region from the time of application through the conclusion of the National Referee Candidate Program. A current USAV background screen, SafeSport training, and HIROS Harassment Training must be completed at the time of application. A National referee candidate with less than one full season as a Junior National referee will not be accepted.
2. Candidates must register in SportsEngine for the National Referee Candidate Program and pay the \$300 application fee by **February 11, 2026, at 11:59 PM Pacific Time**.
3. The National Referee Candidate application material must be uploaded into the USA Volleyball Academy by **Wednesday February 11, 2026, at 11:59 PM Pacific Time**.
 - a) Electronic signatures (candidate, Referees' Chair, and Commissioner) are acceptable.
 - b) Candidates must attend, as a full-time referee without conflict, a minimum of two USAV National Qualifiers and one USAV National Championship, or one USAV National Qualifier and two USAV National Championships, or three USAV National Championships (GJNC 10-13 or GJNC 14-17) during the officiating activities time frame.
 - c) Candidates must demonstrate second referee (R2) proficiency and should volunteer to work as a second referee both within and outside the region when appropriate.
 - d) Candidates that attend USA Volleyball Junior National Candidate Camps will gain national level training to assist in their development. Camper numbers may vary based on referee coach availability.
 - Camp 1: 18s Salt Lake City Qualifier National Candidate Camp, January 23- 25, 2026, in Salt Lake City, UT
 - Camp 2: Sunshine National Candidate Camp, February 27- March 1, 2026, in Orlando, FL
 - Camp 3: Salt Lake City Showdown National Candidate Camp, April 25-27, 2026, in Salt Lake City, UT
 - e) Priority consideration will be given to candidates, who officiate as a full-time referee without conflict, at the National Starlings Tournament, National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) Tournament, All Stars, USA Volleyball events, USA Volleyball National Qualifiers, and USA Volleyball National Championships within the activity period (March 26, 2024 – February 11, 2026).
 - f) Please provide the Officiating Activities Report with your application.
 - g) Please provide three (3) Letters of Recommendation.
 - h) Please include a brief letter - "Why I want to be a National Referee" - with your application.
 - i) Please provide a headshot photo.
 - j) Notification of acceptance will be no later than **February 25, 2026**. Applicants not accepted as candidates will receive a refund within two weeks.
4. Failure to meet any of the above-mentioned deadlines or criteria may result in non-acceptance to the National Referee Candidate Program this season.
5. A qualified candidate must be capable of filling out and uploading an application into the USA Volleyball Academy, completing an accurate and detailed activity report, submitting a letter of "why I want to be a candidate", and securing three letters of recommendation.
6. A qualified candidate must demonstrate scoring proficiency using National Scoring procedures during the evaluation process by 1) completing a scoring proficiency quiz, and 2) serving as the scorer during a match. In addition to the paper scoresheets, the VolleyStation scoring app may also be used at some events.
7. Candidates must register for the event in AES. Applicants who are not selected as candidates are still encouraged to attend the event as a paid referee.

8. The 2026 Girls 18s JNC will be held in Reno, NV at the Reno – Sparks Convention Center. All candidates are required to attend the candidates' meeting on **Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 PM** at the playing venue. Candidates must be available with no schedule conflicts during the three-day evaluation session from **May 1-3, 2026**. Candidates may schedule departure from the convention center any time after 5:00 PM on May 3 (this is mandatory). NOTE: Candidates will not be paid for evaluation matches but will be paid if they are assigned any non-evaluation matches during the candidate program. (paid matches are not guaranteed).
9. Candidates may request event housing but will be responsible for paying one-half of the room cost. Alternatively, candidates may choose to secure their own hotel accommodation.
 - a) When registering for the tournament, there will be the option to request event housing.
 - b) To utilize event housing during candidacy, candidates must pay for the hotel room by the application deadline of February 11, 2026.

National Referee Candidate Curriculum

As a Candidate for National Referee certification, you are required to complete the online National Referee Candidate Course via the USAV Academy by **February 11, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time**, along with all other paperwork associated with candidacy. Failure to complete this course by the deadline will result in non-acceptance as a National Referee candidate.

If you have already completed the modules or exams for your Junior National-level certification requirements, your records will be verified in the USA Volleyball Academy to confirm completion.

Applicants must complete all available and current USA Volleyball Officials Academy National Clinics by **February 11, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time**.

Instructions for Completing the National Referee Candidate Course

1. The coursework will be added to your USAV Academy within a week of registration. Log into the USAV Academy from your SportsEngine account.
 - a. Please contact Matt Podschweit (matt.podschweit@usav.org) if you have any questions.
2. Once in the USA Volleyball Academy, you will see the National Referee Candidate Course. This will contain all the modules and exams listed here:
 - 106q_Scoring Basics Non-deciding Set (w/quiz)
 - 107q_Scoring – Deciding Set (w/quiz)
 - 307_Second Referee Progressions
 - 308_Second Referee Transition Analysis
 - 310_The Art of Assessing Sanctions
 - 324_Professionalism II
 - 804_National Scorer Exam
 - US22_503 Video Recording Session 01 Avoiding Tragedies
 - HIROS Harassment Module
3. **All National Referee Candidate modules must be completed no later than February 11, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time.**

If you have any additional questions, please contact Officials at officials@usav.org.

National Referee Candidate Checklist

To apply and be considered as a candidate for USAV National Referee certification, an applicant must complete and submit the following no later than **February 11, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time**:

- ☐ Current USA Volleyball Membership
- ☐ Current USAV background screen, SafeSport training, and HIROS Harassment Training must be completed at time of application.
- ☐ Candidates must register in SportsEngine for the National Referee Candidate Program and pay the \$300 application fee.
- ☐ The National Candidate application material must be uploaded into the USA Volleyball Academy
 - ☐ Completed Application Data Sheet, typed (electronic signatures accepted)
 - ☐ Completed Officiating Activities Summary (**March 26, 2024 – February 11, 2026**), typed, priority will be given to candidates that attend the National Starlings Tournament, National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) Tournament, All Stars, USA Volleyball events, USA Volleyball Candidate Camps, USA Volleyball National Qualifiers, and USA Volleyball National Championships
 - Candidates must attend, as a full-time referee without conflict, a minimum of two USAV National Qualifiers and one USAV National Championship, or one USAV National Qualifier and two USAV National Championships, or three USAV National Championships (GJNC 10-13 or GJNC 14-17), during the officiating activities time frame.
 - ☐ Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
 - ☐ “Why I want to be a National Referee” Letter
 - ☐ Headshot of candidate
- ☐ National Referee Candidate Course work in the USA Volleyball Academy
- ☐ USA Volleyball Officials Academy clinics up to February 11, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact: Officials at officials@usav.org.