

# [New Referee Training Class](#)

Led by Sean Deschene, Referee Coordinator  
Greater Sycamore Soccer Association (GSSA)

**Monday, March 23, 2026**

6-8:30 pm @ Greene School Cafeteria  
5200 Aldine Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45242

**AND**

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

6-8:30 pm @ Greene School Cafeteria  
5200 Aldine Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45242

COST \$25.00 Venmo [@SeanDeschene](#)

(add subject "Referee Class - Referee's Name" or pay cash at the door)

Bring a notebook and a pencil for notes. Please read the [SAY Playing Laws Rulebook](#)  
[© 2026](#) before the test and both classes. You may bring a copy of the rules.

Arrive early to sign in, so class can start promptly at 6 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm.

[Register Here](#)

Deadline is March 9, 2026

# FAQ

- What's new this year: This year we will have two smaller classes versus one larger class. The test will be before the class to ensure everyone has read the rules and is prepared to ask questions during class to fine tune their understanding of the [2026 Laws of the Game](#).
- Do I need to attend both classes: Yes, you must come to both classes, as there is a lot of material to cover. If you do not attend both classes, you will not earn the referee patch, and you will not be able to referee
- How old do you have to be to Referee:
  - You must be 12 years old by April 1st to referee in the Spring
  - You must be 12 years old by September 1st to referee in the Fall
  - Both can take the class now
- Is this class for kids: Yes, if they are old enough (see above), but adults are also welcome. In fact, coaches are highly encouraged to audit the class so they can learn the laws of the game and what referees are being trained to look for and how to call the game.
- How do I register: Sign up on [this form](#).
- Do I need to take the test before the class: Yes. We are trying to ensure a high quality of training, and only the top 30 passing test scores will qualify for the class. Study hard because you only get one chance to take it.
- How do I take the test: [Sign up for the class](#), and a link to the test will be emailed to you. The test will start in February, and will be due by Monday, March 16, 2026, 18:00 EST (exactly one week before class, so there is time to inform those who qualify). The test is open book, open note, and untimed, but be prepared to do it in one sitting (budget 90 minutes, just in case)
- How do I pay, and what does it cover: You can Venmo @SeanDeschene (513-307-5576) or bring \$25 cash the first night. This helps offset some of the costs for class materials, including your SAY patch. It does not include your uniform. Payment is due after the test and before the first class.
- How do I know I am registered for the class: A confirmation email will be sent with test instructions, and if you pass, a welcome letter for the class.
- Can existing referees take the class (again): Yes, existing referees are allowed to audit the class, free of charge. The goal is to help them get better, and they can offer real world experience. However, they will not get another SAY patch or any other tangible items from the class.

- Do I need to retake this class each year or when I move up a level: No, you are not required to take the class again, but you are welcome to join the class to refresh (the information is free, and [publicly available](#)). We can do an advanced training class for Wings Plus, if enough people [request it](#).
- Where can I find the rulebook: Rule Book URL: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/mdezv/SAY-Playing-Laws-Rulebook---DIGITAL/index.html?maxwidthtosmallmode=0&maxheighttosmallmode=0>
- What will the class cover: We will review the laws of the game—recall you need to read the rulebook before class—and work on some mechanics of refereeing.
- Can people outside of GSSA take the class: Yes, any person who wants to be a SAY referee can take the class, and the certification will work across the different SAY organizations. GSSA intends to limit the class size to 30 participants so that the new class of referees have enough games assigned to them to make it worth their investment. Class management is also a factor, when classes that get too big they reduce the ability to participate and increase distractions. While we welcome new referees from outside of GSSA, we expect them to be a small minority of the class.
- Do you accept certification from other SAY organizations: Yes, if you want to be a GSSA referee, but cannot attend our class, you can get certified by any other SAY organization in the area. Try googling “say soccer referee training cincinnati” and you may find SAY training for SAY East, GSSA, Milford, Cincinnati Hills, Indian Hill Rec, Kings, Western, Central, and more.
- What about USSF Training: Referee training from United States Soccer Federation (USSF) is different from Soccer Association for Youth (SAY); think club versus rec. The referee training is not interchangeable. However, SAY training usually is the first training a referee takes and it can be a stepping stone to USSF training a year or two later. If you are USSF certified, you will still need to get SAY certified because of the differences in the rules.
- Is there a bonus for reading all this: [Yes](#) (These are old, but many of the answers have not changed)
- Send additional questions to [refcoordinator@gssasoccer.com](mailto:refcoordinator@gssasoccer.com)

- Venmo Link and QR:

[https://venmo.com/code?user\\_id=3251165353476096879&created=1741021836](https://venmo.com/code?user_id=3251165353476096879&created=1741021836)

# Sean Deschene

@SeanDeschene



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