

REFEREE PROMOTION CRITERIA

To ensure a consistent, transparent, and merit-based pathway for referee development within the World Minifootball Federation (WMF), the following criteria shall apply for promotion between license categories:

I. National Level License (N-Level)

The National Level License (N-Level) represents the entry-level certification within the referee licensing system recognized by the World Minifootball Federation (WMF).

Eligibility Criteria:

- a. The Referee Committees of each national federation affiliated to WMF have full autonomy to establish their own criteria for the selection, training, and evaluation of referees eligible for the N-Level License, in accordance with the specific needs and context of their country. License issued by the National Federation.
- b. In cases where a national federation is unable to independently organize seminars or training courses for the N-Level License, the WMF, in cooperation with the respective federation, may assist in conducting the course. The course may be delivered physically or online, using digital platforms approved by the WMF. License issued by the National Federation, accredited and cosigned by WMF.

II. Promotion from National Level License (N-Level) to Continental Level License (C-Level)

Eligibility Criteria:

a. Refereeing Experience

- Active participation as a referee in at least **one recognized national or international level competition** recognised by WMF or its Continental Federation within the **last three years** is required, unless otherwise decided by the WMF Referee Committee.
- Submission of a professional Referee Curriculum Vitae (must be written in English), including refereeing history, education, certifications, tournament experience, relevant skills and links to videos showing referee performances over the past 3 years

b. Age guidelines for international referees

- All international referees must meet the required standards of physical fitness, mental sharpness, and theoretical knowledge to officiate at WMF events.

- **The minimum age** to apply for international referee status is **18 years**.
- While the **recommended age for active international officiating is up to 48 years**, referees aged 48 and above may continue their international duties if they demonstrate continued capability and readiness.
- Referees in this category must submit a formal request to the Referees Committee (RC) and fulfill all retention criteria, including successful completion of physical, theoretical, and medical evaluations. The RC may also require additional or specialized assessments to ensure referees maintain the necessary standards for international competition.

c. National Nominations

- National federations may nominate up to 10 referees who meet international standards, taking into account their refereeing quality and performance in national competitions.
- National Federations may submit an **annual shortlist of top referees**, including full documentation and performance records, for consideration by WMF.

d. Theoretical knowledge

- **Rules of the Game:** Deep understanding of specific minifootball rules and international adaptations.
- Participation in at least **one** national or international **seminar, theoretical workshop, or national/continental training** event organized or approved by the WMF, a Continental Federation, or a National Federation within the last **three years**.
- **Theoretical test:** Passing a WMF-recognised theoretical test is required. **The exam will be held in the official language of the continental federation** (in exceptional cases, the theoretical test **can be online**). Referees who fail to pass the theoretical tests may request **to retest** no sooner than **30 days** after the initial attempt. Each referee is allowed a maximum of **two testing attempts** within a 12-month calendar period.

e. Physical skills

- Physical condition: Excellent physical shape to meet the demands of international competitions, including endurance, speed, and agility.
- Passing a **physical test** (in exceptional cases, the testing can be conducted by the National Federation/National Referees Committee, but under the video supervision of a member of the WMF Referees Committee). Referees who fail to pass the physical tests may request **to retake the examination** after a minimum period of **30 days**. Each referee is allowed a maximum of **two testing attempts** within a 12-month calendar period.

f. Skills in managing tense situations

- Ability to remain calm and make decisions in critical moments.
- Self-control: Maintaining a calm and professional demeanor, even under criticism or intense atmosphere.

- Mental preparation and pressure management.

g. Knowledge and skills in using technology

- Familiarity with modern refereeing technologies (e.g., VAR, video refereeing), depending on the competition.
- Training courses or diplomas attesting to these specializations

h. Teamwork ability

- Collaboration with other referees to coordinate decisions and follow common protocols.

III. Promotion from Continental Level License (C-Level) to WMF Elite License

Eligibility Criteria:

a. Precondition

- To qualify for participation in the WMF Elite License program, referees are required to possess a **valid Continental Level License (C-level)**. This requirement guarantees that all candidates have proven their expertise, knowledge, and competency at the continental level before advancing to the elite stage

b. Refereeing Experience

- Active participation as a referee in at least **one recognized international level competition** recognised by WMF or its Continental Federation within the **last three years** is required, unless otherwise decided by the WMF Referee Committee.
- Submission of a professional Referee Curriculum Vitae (must be written in English), including refereeing history, education, certifications, tournament experience, relevant skills and links to videos showing referee performances over the past 3 years

c. Age guidelines for international referees

- All international referees must meet the required standards of physical fitness, mental sharpness, and theoretical knowledge to officiate at WMF events.
- **The minimum age** to apply for international referee status is **18 years**.
- While the **recommended age for active international officiating is up to 48 years**, referees aged 48 and above may continue their international duties if they demonstrate continued capability and readiness.
- Referees in this category must submit a formal request to the Referees Committee (RC) and fulfill all retention criteria, including successful completion of physical, theoretical, and medical evaluations. The RC may also require additional or specialized assessments to ensure referees maintain the necessary standards for international competition.

d. **High-Performance Evaluations**

- Positive evaluations provided by members of the WMF Referee Committee and/or by members of the Referee Committees of the relevant Continental Federations.

e. **Theoretical knowledge**

- **Rules of the Game:** Deep understanding of specific minifootball rules and international adaptations.
- Participation in at least **one** international **seminar, theoretical workshop, or continental training** event organized or approved by the WMF, within the last **three years**.
- **Theoretical test:** Passing a WMF-recognised theoretical test is required. **The exam will be held in English the official language of the WMF** (in exceptional cases, the theoretical test **can be online**). Referees who fail to pass the theoretical tests may request **to retest** no sooner than **30 days** after the initial attempt. Each referee is allowed a maximum of **two testing attempts** within a 12-month calendar period.

f. **Physical skills**

- Physical condition: Excellent physical shape to meet the demands of international competitions, including endurance, speed, and agility.
- Passing a **physical test** (in exceptional cases, the testing can be conducted by the National Federation/National Referees Committee, but under the video supervision of a member of the WMF Referees Committee). Referees who fail to pass the physical tests may request **to retake the examination** after a minimum period of **30 days**. Each referee is allowed a maximum of **two testing attempts** within a 12-month calendar period.

g. **Skills in managing tense situations**

- Ability to remain calm and make decisions in critical moments.
- Self-control: Maintaining a calm and professional demeanor, even under criticism or intense atmosphere.
- Mental preparation and pressure management.

h. **Knowledge and skills in using technology**

- Familiarity with modern refereeing technologies (e.g., VAR, video refereeing), depending on the competition.
- Training courses or diplomas attesting to these specializations

i. **Teamwork ability**

- Collaboration with other referees to coordinate decisions and follow common protocols.

j. **English Language Proficiency**

- All international referees must demonstrate **intermediate or higher proficiency in English**, the official working language of the WMF. This level of proficiency is essential to ensure clear and effective communication during international events, including interactions with players, coaches, fellow referees, and tournament officials from different countries.

IV. General Conditions for All Promotions

- **Ethics and Conduct**

The candidate must have **no major disciplinary sanctions** within the last two years.

- **Ongoing Contribution to Refereeing Development**

Active involvement in referee development activities (e.g., mentorship, instruction, seminar facilitation) is encouraged and may be considered during promotion.

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) Submission** (must be written in English)

The candidate must submit a Referee CV, detailing their officiating experience, qualifications, relevant certifications, language skills, and participation in seminars or development programs, and links to videos showing referee performances over the past 3 years