



# US Soccer/PRO Pathway

2022 - Information



The following information is designed to begin to provide some clarity in answering the question ‘what do I need to do to get in to PRO?’

These steps are to help officials to understand requirements and process.

- 1. Moving forward, it’s normal for a PRO2 official to be holding a USSF National Referee or National Assistant Referee Certification. PRO2 will generally not admit non-USSF National Referee or National Assistant Referees moving forward.**

So how do I get recognized, and work towards this goal in addition to fulfilling the National Official requirements?

## **PRO’s Talent Identification Program**

The newly formed program will look at various USSF level officials;

- 1. PRO’s Assigning Pool and PRO’s Supplemental Assigning Pool** (from localities where National Assignors would have been assigning you to games as part of the PRO crew). Presently, these pools comprise a combination of National and Regional Referees and Assistant Referees – Video Scouting and Group Coaching Opportunities will be carried out here to learn more about officials, with their on-field AND off-field qualities being evaluated.
- 2. Further in-person events and video scouting** – A range of events will be attended by a group of PRO Talent Identifiers and USSF Referee Coaches, including MLS Next, Generation Adidas, National Youth Association events and US Amateur events. If an individual is identified as performing well enough for the next level of game, video scouting can follow on semi-professional games or high-level amateur games, or an opportunity to see the official again in-person. This identification will also be supplemented with group coaching opportunities as the year progresses.

A list of in-person events attended by PRO talent identifiers and USSF Referee Coaches will be made available in due course on [proreferees.com](http://proreferees.com) and USSF communication channels.



**With points 1 and 2, if not already holding the USSF National Referee or Assistant Referee Certification, officials must be working to attain their USSF National Official Status parallel to their work with PRO, and can be identified or attend group coaching sessions while still working towards this level. If you have difficulty in attaining the requirements due to elements outside your control, for whatever reason, please contact Alan Black at [pronewtalent@gmail.com](mailto:pronewtalent@gmail.com)**

**USSF or PRO Assessments are not carried out on officials in this context of Talent Identification. Assessments must still be sought separately by officials through their state.**

The road to PRO is not a one-year program. Professional Officials in the US have many years of consistently top performance at every level they perform at. They have been watched by many people, and have clear ability to accept and act on feedback. They have a mass of experience built up over a long period of time.

However, getting onto that ladder to show what you can do is now set out in steps above. For those looking at step 2, there is a massive advantage in being seen 'in person' and chances to interact with talent identifiers or coaches.

Progression will always be based on performance alone. Therefore, if PRO looks for anything in an individual, it can be summed up in the following way:

**'Impress us on the field with performance and impress us off the field with performance'**

US Soccer and PRO will continue to work together to make this pathway as transparent as possible moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.



**Alan Black**  
**Head of Technical Programs and New Talent**

