



IBSA

Goalball

Referee Program

2025-2028



IBSA Goalball Sport Committee

# **Referee Program**

**2025-2028**

## **1. Program Components**

Every four (4) years the IBSA Goalball Sport Committee will hold Referee courses to introduce new rules and recertify Referees at all levels.

Any individual attempting a new level of certification must also attend a full course including theoretical instruction, written exams, practical assessment and fulfill the requirements for the attempted level.

Referees must submit their E-Passport annually, which shows their continued commitment to officiate goalball.

The IBSA Goalball Referee program consists of five (5) components:

- Referee - Level 1
- Referee - Level 2
- Referee - Level 3
- Course Conductors (CC)
- Senior Course Conductors (SCC)

## **2. Age Limit for Referees**

The minimum age limit to participate in an International Referee Course is 18 years of age.

The maximum age limit to participate in an International Referee course is 69 years of age (They can serve as a Referee until 31 December of the year in which they turn 70).

## **3. Certification Maintenance:** To maintain IBSA Certification all Referees must:

- a. Record all games officiated each year in the “Official’s E-Passport” (games must be played under IBSA rules).

- b. Submit the Official's E-Passport to the IBSA Goalball Referees' Coordinator by 31 December each year.

#### **4. Referee Level 1**

**Eligibility:** Level 1 Referees are eligible to officiate at National and International events, IBSA Youth Regional Games with the exception of Paralympic Games, World or Regional Championships, Paralympic Qualifying tournaments and Youth World Championships. For major championships (Paralympic Games and IBSA Goalball World Championships), Goal Judges should be Level 1 IBSA Referees or Nationally trained Referees.

- **Exam:** Level 1 candidates will be evaluated by a Course Conductor or a Senior Course Conductor. Conductors can be from the same country as the candidates. An exam is required for Referees to certify at this level and can occur at any National or International event. Candidates must attend a two/three-day course - tournament and pass a closed-book written exam in English of 18 Multiple Choice and 7 True / False questions or video cases with a minimum passing score of 20 out of 25. In addition to the written exam, candidates must successfully officiate 3 games. Feedback will be provided for all three (3) games. The candidate must pass a practical assessment for the two (2) games (one (1) game officiated from table-side and one (1) game from far-side). The minimum passing score for the game assessment of the Level 1 exam will be 75 out of 100 (average of two games). All calls must be made in English.
- **Eligibility for Advancement to the Next Highest level**  
New Level 1 candidates must meet the following requirements:
  - Have been a National Referees for at least two (2) years
  - Officiated a minimum of 20 games
  - Have been a National Referee in at least two (2) different tournamentsThis must be verified by the candidate's National federation

#### **Certification Maintenance - Level 1**

- Level 1 Referees must officiate a minimum of eight (8) games at one (1) or more Local, National or International tournaments (total 8 games).

## **5. Referee Level 2**

### **Eligibility**

Level 2 Referees are eligible to officiate at National and International events, including IBSA sanctioned Regional Championships, Youth World and Regional Championships, with the exception of Paralympic Games, World Championships and Paralympic Qualifying tournaments.

### **Exam:**

A certification exam occurs at an International event that can include National or club team participation from a minimum of three (3) countries. Candidates must pass a timed closed-book written exam in English consisting of 25 Multiple Choice and 10 true/ false and/or video case questions with a minimum passing score of 30 correct responses out of the 35 questions. Candidates will be required to officiate three (3) games. Feedback will be provided for all games. Candidate must pass a practical assessment for two (2) games (one (1) game officiated from table-side and one (1) game from far-side). The minimum passing score for the game assessment will be 85 out of 100 (average of two games). Practical exams will be conducted in English. Level 2 candidates will be examined by a Senior Course Conductor. Senior Course Conductors cannot be from the same country as the candidate. Referees who do not pass the Level 2 exam will continue as a Level 1 Referee.

### **Eligibility For Advancement to The Next Highest Level**

Candidates to Level 2 – three (3) years (1095 days) of practical National and International experience is required between Level 1 and Level 2.

Candidates must submit their Official's E-Passport annually, which proves their continued commitment to officiate goalball.

When two (2) or more different National or club teams participate in one (1) tournament it qualifies as an International tournament.

If a Referee drops to a lower level, there will be no time limit for advancement to the next highest level.

If a candidate doesn't pass either the written exam or game assessment, they can repeat that part within one (1) year.

### **Certification Maintenance - Level 2**

Level 2 Referees must officiate eight (8) games at one or more local, National or International tournaments and officiate a minimum of four (4) games at one (1) or more International tournaments (total 12 games) each year.

**Candidates to Level 2:** Level 1 Referees who attend a Level 2 course for the first time must take the Level 1 written exam first. After passing their exam they can take the Level 2 written exam during the same course. Current Level 2 Referees do not need to do an additional exam.

### **Referees Level 3**

Level 3 Referees are eligible to officiate any National and International tournaments, including Paralympic Games, IBSA Goalball World Championships and Regional Championships, IBSA World Games and Paralympic Qualifying tournaments.

### **Exams**

- Exams to certify occur at any International tournaments with participation of a minimum of five (5) National or club teams from a minimum of three (3) countries.
- Candidates must take the Level 3 Referee Course and successfully complete two (2) written exams and a practical game assessment.
- The written exam will be timed and in English. It will have two (2) components consisting of 60 total questions.
- The first written component includes 30 Multiple Choice and 20 True/False questions. The minimum passing score is 47 correct responses for the 50 questions.
- The second written component includes 10 questions (consisting of 10 videos or 10 short answer questions or a mix of these questions). This part of the exam is

based on situational judgement. Based on the response, an answer to each of the 10 questions may receive between 0 and 5 points. The minimum passing score is 45 out of 50 points

- Candidates will be required to officiate three (3) games. Feedback will be provided for all the games. The candidate must pass a practical assessment for two (2) games (one (1) game officiated from table-side and one (1) game from the far-side). The minimum passing score for the practical component of the Level 3 evaluation will be 95 out of 100 (average of 3 games).
- Level 3 candidates will be examined by a Senior Course Conductor who is not from the same country as the candidates.

### **Eligibility for Advancement to the Next Highest Level**

**Candidates to Level 3** – three (3) years (1095 days) of practical National and International experience is required between Level 2 and Level 3. Candidates must submit their Official's E-Passport annually, which proves their continued commitment to officiate goalball.

Courses for advancement must be taken in order from Level 1 to Level 3. The IBSA Goalball Sport Committee can dismiss any Referee that does not comply with the IBSA Goalball Referee Code of Conduct.

**Candidates to Level 3:** Level 2 Referees who attend a Level 3 course for the first time must take the Level 2 written exam first. After they pass their exam they can take the Level 3 written exam at the same course. Current Level 3 Referees do not need to do an additional exam.

A candidate's new level is approved when the Senior Course Conductor confirms the results in writing and when the course payment is done.

If a candidate doesn't pass either the written exam or game assessment, they can repeat that part within one (1) year.

If a candidate tries to recertify after twelve (12) months, they need to attend a full course.

### **Certification Maintenance – Level 3**

- Level 3 Referees must officiate a minimum of eight (8) games at one (1) or more National or International tournaments and officiate a minimum of eight (8) games at one (1) or more International tournaments (total 16 games).
- When two (2) or more different National or club teams participate in one (1) tournament it qualifies as an International tournament.
- If a Referee drops to a lower level, there will be no time limit for advancement to the next highest level.
- If a Referee - Level 3 acts as a TD, Commissioner or SCC/CC in IBSA sanctioned competitions, they will be considered to have met their game requirements in a given year.

### **Special Circumstances for Certification Maintenance**

If a Referee cannot meet their certification requirements in a given year, they may submit their Official's E-Passport and a letter to the IBSA Goalball Referee's Coordinator explaining the reasons that prevented them from achieving their annual requirements. The IBSA Goalball Referee's Coordinator, in consultation with the Goalball Sport Committee, will make a determination as to whether or not their certification will be maintained.

If a certified Referee does not meet the annual tournament certification requirements, they will lose certification as follows:

- Level 1- if one (1) year missed, must certify as Level 1
- Level 2- if one (1) year missed, drop to Level 1
- Level 3 - if one (1) year missed, drop to level 2

If a Referee can not recertify within four (4) years but still sends their Official's E-Passport, they will lose certification and they must re-certify as Level 1.

### **Course Conductor**

Course Conductors (CC) have a minimum of four (4) years as a Level 3 Referee (preferable). CCs are eligible to certify Level 1 Referees. CC candidates must have

a minimum of seven (7) years of continuous involvement in the Goalball Referee Program.

Additionally, candidates must demonstrate a continued commitment to officiate goalball. The Goalball Sport Committee appoints CC for a four (4) year period prior to each World Championships. The Goalball Sport Committee can nominate new CCs as Regional requirements dictate. The Goalball Sport Committee can also dismiss or replace a CC who is not performing the duties in line with expectations. CC can act as a Technical Delegate (TD) or Commissioner after participating in the corresponding training. TDs and Commissioners are approved by the Goalball Sport Committee's Chair.

### **Senior Course Conductor**

Senior Course Conductors (SCC) have a minimum of eight (8) years as a Level 3 Referee (preferable) and have experience with conducting certification courses. SCCs are eligible to certify Level 1, 2 and 3 Referees.

SCC candidates must have a minimum of eight (8) years of continuous involvement in the Goalball Referee Certification Program. Additionally, candidates must have demonstrated the ability to teach and consistently instruct the Goalball Referee Certification Program. SCCs can act as a Technical Delegate (TD) or Commissioner after participating in the corresponding training. SCCs are nominated and approved by the IBSA Goalball Sport Committee's Chair.

### **International Technical Official Training**

International Technical Official (ITO) training, workshops consists of

- Review of the ITO Manual
- Roles and duties of the Scorer, Timer and Goal Judge
- Practical exercise of using the clock and score sheet
- Practice as a Goal Judge

### **Technical Delegate Training**

The IBSA Goalball Sport Committee selects Technical Delegates (TD) mainly from the group of SCC/CC, but is not limited to this group if other people have shown competence and performance in similar events and they know the IBSA Goalball Rules and Regulations.



TD training is a one-day workshop and consists of:

- Material in TD Guidelines
- Goalball Rules and Regulations
- Protest procedures

## **Commissioner**

### **Appointments of Commissioners**

- a) Commissioners are nominated and approved by the IBSA Goalball Sport Committee Chair.
- b) Commissioners have a minimum of seven (7) years as a Level 3 Referee (preferable).

### **Commissioner' Training**

Commissioner's training is a one-day workshop and consists of:

- Material in Commissioners Guidelines
- Goalball Rules and Regulations
- Protest procedures
- Exercises (Providing feedback, Review of Evaluation Form)

### **Authority and Responsibilities**

1. The task of the Commissioner is to observe and provide feedback to Referees after each game to ensure consistent enforcement of rules and procedures during IBSA World Championships, Paralympic Games, Regional Championships and other IBSA sanctioned events.
2. Assist the Technical Delegate in selecting the best performing Referees after the round robins (TD has the final choice)
3. Serve as Chair of the Protest Committee
4. Assist the TD in giving Referees immediate performance, feedback at major tournaments with the intent of ensuring consistency among Referees

5. The Commissioner shall not give feedback to the Referees during half time but will only give feedback and assessments after the game.
6. Reporting performance evaluation of Referees.
7. An individual will not officiate at a tournament while serving as Commissioner for that tournament.

**Number of Commissioners:** When there are two (2) competition venues a minimum of two (2) Commissioners will be assigned by the IBSA Goalball Sport Committee for IPC and IBSA sanctioned competitions.

### **Grounds for Removal as an Official**

The Goalball Sport Committee reserves the right to dismiss or replace an Official who fails to meet performance expectations. Dismissal may occur due to, but is not limited to, the following reasons:

- Making negative or inappropriate comments about IBSA, its affiliated Boards, Referees, other Officials, or teams through written, visual, or digital media, including websites and public forums.
- Engaging in business transactions during a tournament.
- Failing to complete assigned tasks accurately, impartially, or in accordance with expectations.
- Engaging in unethical or inappropriate behavior.

### **Appointment of Referees and ITOs**

The IBSA Goalball Referee's Coordinator will consult with the Commissioners and Advisory Group and recommends Officials to the Chair for approval.

National coaches can attend to Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 courses but they will not be selected to referee at IBSA sanctioned tournaments. Any referee must inform IBSA Referees' Coordinator if they have a national team member position. Failure to notify the Referees' Coordinator will result in removal from the Referee Program.

## **Referee Course Procedures**

The Referee's Coordinator will approve Referee Course requests. All Referee course must be announced on the IBSA web-site calendar and be open to all eligible candidates. The course organizer will determine the total number of Referee candidates depending on the number of teams participating and the number of games in the tournament. The first action is to select the course date and location. The course organizer will notify the IBSA Goalball Referee's Coordinator (ideally 60 days in advance) of the National association, location and date, number of participants at each level ( Appendix 1 ).

If there are more than 10 participants in the Referee course, two (2) SCC/CCs are needed.

The IBSA Referee's Coordinator will inform the LOC of the available SCC/CCs, and give the contact information (conductor name, email, phone etc) to contact them directly.

The LOC will communicate a contact person with an e-mail address and telephone number to SCC/CCs to confirm the accommodation/hotel, address etc.

The SCC/CCs will have the LOC send the 'Course Eligibility Form' and 'New Level 1 Candidates Goalball CV' (Appendix 2) in order to confirm eligibility of participants. The Referees' Coordinator will be consulted if necessary.

The Referee's Coordinator will provide the SCC/CC with all updated and required course and exam materials.

The SCC/CCs will send the course materials to participants and to the LOC. Participants can either use PCs, tablets or print the materials.

The course organiser will provide a classroom with a projector, internet connection and white/black board and available venue.

The course must be held in conjunction with a tournament in order for practical assessments to occur. IBSA sanctioned tournaments will not be used (except in special circumstances). Games must be played according to IBSA goalball rules.

The SCC/CCs will send the results to Referee's Coordinator for confirmation.

After Referee's Coordinator has received course reporting form (Appendix 3), and fee payment (must be paid in advance), the Goalball Referee's Coordinator will inform the The SCC/CCs to confirms the results to participants

The Referee's Coordinator will send a questionnaire to the candidates to get feedback following the course.

The course organizer must commit to pay for all travel and accommodation (food, etc.) costs. SCC/CC should be paid a per diem of 50 euro per day to be paid in cash. (including arrival and departure days)

The Referee's Coordinator will send a short report to IBSA Goalball Chair

Candidates who pass a new level between January to April, must fulfill all game requirements of the new level.

Candidates who pass a new level between May to August, must fulfill half of the game requirements of the new level.

Candidates who pass a new level between September toand December, should fulfill the game requirements for the level they have come from e.g, those who pass Level 3, should fulfill Level 2 game requirements

Courses will generally consist of a 2 - 3 day theoretical component in which each rule is discussed and a practical assessment where each candidate is evaluated while officiating three (3) games. The average of the two (2) practical marks for Level 1 and 2, and the average of three (3) practical marks for Level 3, in conjunction with the mark from the theoretical exam will determine a passing or failing mark.

Note: The theory part of the course may be shorter if candidates have previous Goalball experience or longer, if allowance needs to be made for interpreters or extenuating circumstances. The assessment criteria must be explained to all participants during the courses.

The marking requirements will be found in the course material and it is different for Level 1, 2 and 3.

All recertifying Referees and anyone attempting a new level must participate in a full Referee course.

### **Course organizers must provide the following**

- Transportation (home to home): flights; ground transportation between SCC/CC home and airport, hotel, venues.
- Visas (when needed)
- Medical requirements to enter and the leave the country (Pcr tests etc) when needed.
- Accommodation: in single room (or double room if two Conductors of same gender), with private toilet and bath. Free Wi-Fi in hotel and in room.
- Meals (daily breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Referee kits (optional): the same that is being provided to the tournament Referees.
- Free laundry (when needed).
- The course organiser will provide a classroom with a projector, internet connection and white/black board or equivalent.
- Per Diem: 50€/day or equivalent, considered from departure day to arrival home to be paid in cash.
- All flights are in economy class and must include meal/s and one piece of (1) check luggage (20kg, or maximum weight for one (1) piece permitted by the airline being used).

IBSA Goalball Sport Committee reserves the right to change or modify the Referees' Program when needed.

