

SafeSport and Risk Management

SafeSport and Risk Management are two separate programs/requirements.

SafeSport is a national program conducted through US Soccer. All referees age 18 and older must complete SafeSport training before their referee registration is approved. SafeSport is not a background check – it is a training program.

Risk Management is a program conducted by New York West Youth Soccer. Any referee who wishes to officiate games affiliated with New York West Youth Soccer (essentially any game assigned through one of our districts) must complete the risk management program. Risk Management includes both a background check and a training program. If you have completed SafeSport, you'll be able to skip the training program in the Risk Management process. You'll be given the option to skip – if you do that, you will be required to upload a copy of your SafeSport certificate. If you need to do both, do SafeSport first so that you can skip the video portion of Risk Management.

SafeSport:

1. If you are under the age of 18, you need not complete SafeSport training. There is no charge for SafeSport.
2. If you are 18 or older, go to <https://learning.ussoccer.com/referee/> and log in to your account.
3. Near the top of the page, toward the left, click on “Courses.”
4. On the page that appears, click on “Available Courses.”
5. In the column on the left, select “SafeSport.”
6. Follow the instructions on this page to complete the program. It will take 1.5 – 2 hours.
7. Once you have completed the program, you'll be provided a certificate of completion. It's a good idea to save a copy of that as you may need to provide it later.
 - a. You can always download a copy of your SafeSport certificate from the Learning Center. Log in and click on your name in the upper right-hand corner, then select “Profile.” As you scroll down the page, you should see “Safety Certifications” which will provide information on your SafeSport certification. Click “Download” to get a copy of your certificate.
8. *When you check your registration status, you may get a message that your registration is “on hold pending risk management.”* Unfortunately, their terminology doesn't match ours. If it says that, it means you are not showing a valid SafeSport certification. That means one of two things – either you haven't completed SafeSport, or you completed it and your certificate is not loaded into the system or has not been approved.
9. If you completed SafeSport using the Learning Center link above, your certification should be transferred into OMS automatically. The easiest way to check this is to log in to your Member Home Page in OMS. Next to the “I want to:” line at the top, select “Provide Safesport Documentation” from the drop down menu. If a window opens that says Safesport training has been completed, that means your certification is in the system and is awaiting approval if necessary. No further action is needed by you. If your certification is not in the system, you'll be given an opportunity to upload your certificate (the one you saved in step 7 above).

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Risk Management:

1. If you wish to officiate youth games in Western New York, you must complete Risk Management, regardless of your age. There is a \$35 charge for Risk Management applications that will be collected by credit card.
2. Go to <https://nyswysa.sportngin.com/register/form/617988593>
3. Follow the steps to complete your registration. Make sure that you follow the instruction for “Referee” even if you are also a player or coach. Select Western New York State Referee Association/WNYSRA as your “club.”
4. When you get to the video presentation, you’ll be given the opportunity to skip the videos if you have completed video training. If you have a valid SafeSport certification, you can choose to skip this, but you may be required to upload a copy of your SafeSport certificate. If you haven’t completed SafeSport, you will need complete the video training. This takes about 1.5 hours.
5. Ensure that you complete all necessary modules. You’ll be provided a certificate and will receive an email confirming your completion.
6. Any questions regarding Risk Management should be sent to Mike Kozak at mkozak@nyswysa.org.