

USA Powerlifting - Referee Qualifications, Certifications, and Testing Procedures

USAPL State Referee

State officiating tests are administered by the USAPL State Chairperson, upon request. They are evaluated by the appointed member of the Referee's Committee. Requirements for taking the state Referee test are:

1. Candidates must be a minimum of 18 years of age. Candidates must be current members of the USA Powerlifting. Registration cards must be presented to the State Chairperson prior to test administration.
2. Candidates must have approval of their State Chairperson to take the test.
3. Candidates must be actively involved in the sport of powerlifting for a minimum time period of one year in one of the following capacities: athlete, coach, meet director, or scoring table official.
4. Candidates must pass the written and practical sections of State Referee's test. A minimum score of 90% is required on each section. The State referee examination is an open book test.
5. When necessary, re-test arrangements may be made after a minimum of six months following the previous test date.

USAPL National Referee

National officiating tests are administered at all National Championships. These examinations may also be given at Regional or State Championships at the discretion of the Chair of the Referee's Committee and the approval of the USAPL President. Requirements for taking the National Referee test are:

1. Candidates must be a minimum of 20 years of age.
2. Candidates must be a current member of the USA Powerlifting. Registration cards must be presented to the State Chairperson prior to test administration.
3. Candidates must have approval of their State Chairperson and the Technical/Referee Committee to take the test.
4. Candidates must be a State Referee for two or more years before taking the National Referee's Test.
5. Candidate must have officiated at six (6) powerlifting meets in the position of a platform referee. Included in the six meets will be two sessions as Chief Referee. By "officiating" it is meant to be a full session of a powerlifting meet (three-lift contest).
6. Candidates must be actively involved in the sport of powerlifting for a minimum time period of three years in one of the following capacities: athlete, coach, meet director, or scoring table official.
7. A résumé of the candidates work should be mailed to the Chairperson of the referee's committee at least one month prior to the test date.
8. Candidates must pass the written and practical sections of National Referee's test. A minimum score of 90% is required on each section. These tests are evaluated and graded by the appointed member of the Technical/Referee Committee.
9. When necessary, re-test arrangements may be made after a minimum of six months following the previous test date.

<p>Note: National Referees must make themselves available for judging at least 4 National Meets over a 4 year period. Failure to do so will result in suspension of the referee's credentials. Referee credit is given for the following assignments: Chief Referee, Side Referee, Jury, Technical Controller, Expeditor, Scoring, Weigh-in and Equipment Check.</p>
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IPF Referee

Category II

1. Qualifications for an IPF Category II Referee are as follows:

- (a) A National Referee of at least two years standing, having officiated in the position as a referee with a minimum of four National Powerlifting Championships (including two as Chief Referee) within any four year period.
- (b) Must be recommended by National Federation.
- (c) Must take the Category II written examination at a World Championship, Continental Championship, Regional Game, International Tournament, National Championship or National Clinic.
- (d) Must achieve a passing score of 90 percent or more on both written and practical examinations.

Category I

2. Qualifications for an IPF Category I Referee are as follows :

- (a) Must be a Category II referee in good standing for a period of at least 4 years.
- (b) Must have adjudicated at least 4 International Championships, (excluding World Bench Press Championships).
- (c) Must take Category I practical examination at any World Championship (excluding the World Bench press Championship), Continental Championship, Regional Games or International Tournament.
- (d) Must adjudicate at least 75 attempts, 35 of which must be squats, while serving as Chief Referee. First round attempts by lifters will not be counted.
- (e) The candidate will also be credited with 25 points / marks, and observed for competence by the examiner/s during gear check, weigh-in and while seated on the platform. A deduction of 0.5, (half a point/mark) will be made for any error that may contravene the technical rules. The examiner will be a member of the IPF Technical Committee or an Official appointed by the IPF Technical Committee and Referee Registrar.
- (f) The candidate must score at least 90 percent on his total examination. This includes the 75 points on his decisions made on the platform as compared with those of the Jury members and not those of his fellow platform referees. The other 25 points coming from his decisions and performance of the necessary duties i.e. Gear check, Weigh-in, and Platform control.
- (g) Must be nominated by his National Federation to the Chairman of the Technical Committee and Referee Registrar three months prior to his examination. Basis for nomination should be as follows:
 - i. Candidate's competence as a referee.
 - ii. Priority ranking as a Category II.
 - iii. Availability to referee at future international events.

3. The selection of a candidate for examination by the IPF will be subject to the following Criteria:

- (a) The number of nominations received.
- (b) The number of examination positions available.
- (c) The current requirements for Category I referee within the various nations.

4. IPF Testing Procedures are as follows:

Category II

A written examination will be given only after a complete and comprehensive rules clinic has been conducted under the direction of an approved Category 1 referee who has been appointed as Chief Examiner by the IPF Technical Committee and Referee Registrar.

A practical examination will be given after the written examination during the competition, the candidate will be seated beside the examiner/s and will adjudicate a total of 100 attempts, 40 of which must be squats. The candidate must be scrutinized by at least one Category 1 Referee and score at least 90 percent on all his decisions when compared with a majority of the scrutinizing referees. First round attempts will not be counted. Adjudication will begin with the second round attempts. The practical Cat. II examination will be held only in conjunction with international or regional championships. The written examination can be held as usual at national level.

Category I

A practical examination will be given to a candidate at any World Championship (excluding the World Bench Press Championships), Continental Championship, Regional Games or International Tournament. The candidate will be scrutinized by the Jury. The candidate must score at least 90 percent on all his decisions when compared with a majority of the scrutinizing Jury members, this includes the candidates observed competence in handling all other duties, such as equipment check examinations and weigh-in procedures. The first round of attempts will not be counted. Adjudication will begin with the second round attempts.

5. In the event of a nation not having active Category I referees, the IPF Technical Committee and Referee Registrar may appoint a Category II referee to administer and monitor the Category II written examinations.

6. The examination fee shall be paid to the Chief Examiner before the examination. All examination score sheets shall be marked by the scrutinizing referee/s. When marking is complete, the candidate shall be informed of the results. Marked score sheets shall be sent to the Referee's Registrar. Examination fees to the IPF Treasurer.

7. After receiving the examination results, the Referee Registrar will inform the candidates Federation's National Secretary of the results and forward the appropriate credentials to the candidate.

8. A candidate taking a practical examination will be scrutinized by the Jury (for Category I) or the appointed scrutinizing referee/s (for Category II) to determine his success or failure.

9. Upon passing the examination, a referee's date of promotion shall be the date of the examination.

10. Candidates who fail the examination must wait at least six months before taking the examination again.

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