

**USA Powerlifting National Referee Exam Process:  
New Procedures Effective January 1, 2020 (Updated July 1, 2020)**

National referee exams may be administered at any USA Powerlifting sanctioned three-lift event (local, state, regional, or national). Only examiners (international referees and senior national referees) approved by the Technical Committee will be allowed to administer the national referee exam. Being an international referee or senior national referee does not guarantee approval as an examiner. It is the responsibility of the national referee candidate to provide names of international referees and/or senior national referees who have indicated availability to serve as examiners at the event for which the exam is being requested (referee candidates may reach out to the meet director and/or state chair for assistance with this). All other requirements to become a national referee (i.e., at least 20 years old, current member, state chair approval, minimum of 2 years as a state referee, minimum of 6 meets worked as a referee, minimum of 2 assignments as chief referee, and passing the written and practical exams with a score of at least 90%) remain the same.

If the candidate passes both the written and practical exams at a local, state, or regional meet, he or she will not receive their national referee credential until they referee at a national meet which must be done within 12 months of passing the national referee exam (Note: refereeing one session at a national meet is the minimum requirement). Failure to attend a national meet to referee within a year will result in the entire process starting over including retaking both portions of the exam. [See note below] Once the written and practical exams have been passed, the candidate is eligible to sit as a referee at a national meet. Attendance as a referee at a national meet is the last step to getting the national referee credential. Candidates who have passed the national referee exam but who have not yet attended a national meet to referee technically are not national referees yet and therefore are not eligible to sit for American records at local, state, or regional meets and are not eligible to serve as chief referees or jury members at regional meets. If a candidate takes and passes the practical and written exams at a national meet, he or she is given the national referee credential and is immediately eligible to serve as a national referee.

Procedure\* for becoming a national referee:

1. Meet all of the requirements:
  - a. At least 20 years old
  - b. Current USA Powerlifting member in good standing
  - c. State referee for a minimum of 2 years (i.e., 24 months)
  - d. Platform referee (side or chief) for a full session in at least 6 different full-power events
    1. Note: Working more than one session at a single event only counts as one event for the purposes of the national exam requirements
    2. Note: Single- or two-lift events do not count for national exam requirements
  - e. Chief referee for a full session in at least 2 different full-power events
    1. Note: Rotating between chief and side referee positions within a session does not count for the purposes of the chief referee requirement for the national exam
  - f. Approval of state chair to sit for exam
2. Submit the online application at least 30 days prior to the event in which the request is being made to take the national referee exam
3. Receive official approval from the Technical Committee
4. Schedule event at which national exam will be administered
  - a. Note: The Technical Committee will assign an approved examiner; if an approved examiner cannot be at the event, the candidate will not be able to test at the event (it is not the responsibility of the Technical Committee to guarantee that an approved examiner will be available)
5. Pass closed-book written exam (passing score: 90%) and practical exam (passing score: 90%)
  - a. If the candidate fails one or both sections of the exam, he or she may retake the failed portion(s) but must wait at least 6 weeks before retaking the exam
6. Referee at a national meet within 12 months of passing the national referee exam in order to officially be given the national referee rank. Note: As of July 1, 2020, this requirement is temporarily waived due to the cancellation of all 2020 national meets in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Referees who pass the written and practical exams will immediately be granted the rank of national referee and are eligible to adjudicate American record attempts. Once national meets resume, all referees who passed the written and practical exams but have not refereed at a national meet will have 12 months to referee at a national meet in order to maintain their national rank. Failure to do so will result in revocation of national referee status; these referees will be reverted to the rank of state referee. The 12-month clock to referee at a national meet begins with the resumption of national meets (i.e., the date of the first national meet held after the temporary national meet suspension ends).

\*Note: This procedure applies to all national referee applicants, regardless of the level of meet at which the national exam will be taken.