

# The Referee Group January Newsletter

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Topics:

- **2025 Referee Certification**
- **January Scheduling: State Cup, Academy, Winter WPL-RCL-NPSL Matches**
- **Referee Development Programming**

We'll be sending out focused communications about each of these topics.

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## 1. 2025 Referee Certification

If you are not yet certified for 2025, you've likely received emails from Duncan Munro, the WA State Referee Committee's **Director of Retention & Recruitment**. Duncan also serves in this role within our local referee community, supporting certification efforts and providing guidance.

To get certified, please follow [these instructions for 2025 Certification](#). You must complete your certification before officiating any matches in 2025.

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## 2. January Scheduling

January schedules are being finalized by clubs and should be posted online this weekend. This will include plenty of local officiating opportunities. While other regions may have already posted schedules, we'll upload ours as soon as we receive them.

Here's what to expect:

- **Academy Events in January:**
  - Girls Academy: January 11, 25, 26
  - ECNL: January 11
  - Elite Academy: Dates TBD
  - Numerous State Cup preliminary matches
- **PacNW Winter Classic at Starfire:**
  - **January 10-12:** U10-U14
  - **January 17-20:** U15-U19

This tournament offers a fantastic opportunity to work alongside referees from outside our local community. The tournament is listed on [NW Soccer Officials](#).

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### 3. Referee Development Programming

Exciting updates are coming this winter for our referee development programs! Look for opportunities tailored to your experience level:

- New(er) Officials: U11/U12 matches
- Second/Third-Year Officials: U13/U14/U15 matches
- High School and Academy Levels: Advanced development opportunities

**Sunday Night Mentoring Groups** will continue online via Zoom this winter, featuring:

- Topical instruction and discussions
- Match debriefs and learnings from recent events
- National guest speakers, including:
  - **Ismail Elfath:** FIFA World Cup and PRO Referee
  - **Abbey Okulaja:** PRO2 Referee Coach

**Mental Training Workshops** focused on officials and our approach to match day performance hosted monthly by [Derrek Falor with Thrive](#).

**2025 TRG Women's Initiative**, in collaboration with US Soccer's Women's Initiative, will host a conference in Seattle featuring a panel of inspiring local and national women leaders.

**TRG Elite Referee Academy** will also debut with applications due in January. Stay tuned for details!

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We're looking forward to a productive and exciting winter/spring season. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

#### The Referee Development Team

- Larry Metz
  - Peter Maunsell
  - Elizabeth Alexander
  - David Friend
  - Samir Yasa
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