

# Classification & Certification Requirements



## Section 1. Volunteer Classifications

The NYSGA Tournament Volunteer Program includes **five** classifications:

1. **Tournament Volunteer-in-Training:** New volunteers working towards a permanent classification level (see below). These volunteers can only serve as spotters.
2. **Tournament Volunteer:** Volunteers who can serve as spotters, registration volunteer, or volunteer coordinator. Tournament Volunteers must never give Rulings.
3. **NYSGA Rules Official:** Volunteers who demonstrate a proficiency in refereeing and a strong command of common Rules situations who can serve as spotters, registration volunteer, volunteer coordinator, and Rules Official – assisting players with common Rulings (as defined by NYSGA Rules Exam and staff training materials). NYSGA Rules Officials must request assistance in any situation outside the scope of their approved training.
4. **Advanced Rules Official:** USGA Rules of Golf Advanced certified Rules Officials with a high level of Rules knowledge and on-course judgment, and are trusted to handle all Rules situations and Pace of Play enforcement independently at NYSGA competitions.
5. **Expert Rules Official:** USGA Rules of Golf Expert certified volunteers represent the highest level of Rules certification within the NYSGA volunteer program and provide leadership, mentorship, and oversight in addition to Rules and Pace of Play expertise.

## Section 2. Certification Requirements

1. **Tournament Volunteer-in-Training Requirements**
  - a) **Education**
    - i. NYSGA Tournament Volunteer Orientation (Zoom Presentation)
    - ii. NYSGA Tournament Volunteer Training (Zoom Presentation)
  - b) **On-Course Training**
    - i. Receive on-course training with a Volunteer Mentor
2. **Tournament Volunteer Requirements**
  - a) **Education**
    - i. Attend an **NYSGA Rules of Golf Workshop** (every 2 years), and
    - ii. Attend an **NYSGA Refereeing Workshop** (every 2 years)
  - b) **Days Worked:** Work a minimum of four (4) days at NYSGA administered competitions (annual)
3. **Rules Official Requirements**
  - a) **Education:**
    - i. Attend an **NYSGA Rules of Golf Full-Day Workshop** (every 2 years) or **USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Workshop** (every 4 years), and
    - ii. Attend an **NYSGA Refereeing Workshop** (every 2 years)
  - b) **Days Worked:** Work a minimum of four (4) days at NYSGA administered competitions (annual)
  - c) **Refereeing:** Successfully complete the **Referee Evaluation & Feedback Review** (every 2 years), and
  - d) **Rules Exam:** Achieve the following **exam scores** either annually (NYSGA Rules Official) or within four years (USGA):
    - i. **NYSGA Rules Official:** Score a 45/50 on the NYSGA Rules of Golf exam – new
    - ii. **Advanced Rules Official:** USGA Advanced Certification on the 100 or 80-question exams (75+/100, 70+/80)
    - iii. **Expert Rules Official:** Achieve USGA Expert Certification on the 100-question exam (90+/100)

## Section 3. Maintaining Certification Status

To remain active and eligible for assignment at NYSGA competitions, volunteers must meet the following ongoing requirements. These requirements apply regardless of certification level unless otherwise noted.

### NYSGA Tournament Volunteers

1. Work a minimum four (4) days per year at NYSGA administered competitions,
2. Maintain a current volunteer profile and background check,
3. Remain current with required education as outlined in Section 2

### NYSGA Rules Officials (All Levels)

1. Meet all Tournament Volunteer maintenance requirements (1-3 above),
2. Maintain current Rules of Golf and Refereeing education as outlined in Section 2,
3. Pass the Referee Evaluation & Feedback Review within the required cycle, and
4. Maintain required NYSGA or USGA Rules exam certification.