



**BC SOCCER**

**BC Soccer**  
**Referee Upgrade Program**  
**(Regional & Provincial)**

Version 1.5 October 2024

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# 1. Introduction

## a. a. Purpose

The Referee Upgrade Program is designed to identify, educate, and develop Referees who seek promotion to Regional or Provincial classification in British Columbia.

## b. b. Objectives

1. Concentrate efforts towards the development and growth of Regional and Provincial Referees in the province.
2. Provide emphasis of the Referee Pathway along the Performance stream.
3. Develop a platform for advancement of Referees from District to Regional list and Regional to Provincial list.
4. Highlight and implement a standards-based approach with respect to performance measures and level of professionalism.

## c. c. Pathway

Referees who are considered for the Referee Upgrade Program are progressing through the Referee Pathway under the Performance stream.

- Candidates entering the Regional upgrade component of the program must have at least one year of experience at the District Level and be applying as a Grade 8 referee based on the Grading Protocol. Successful completion of the program will promote the classification to a Grade 9 Regional Referee.
- Candidates entering the Provincial upgrade component of the program must have at least one year of experience at the Regional Level and be applying as a Grade 9 based on the Grading Protocol. Successful completion of the program will promote the classification to a Grade 10 Provincial Referee.

For an overview, please see the BC Grading Protocol and Referee Pathway.

**Please ensure to review the appropriate section of this document for the upgrading components that apply to you.**

## 2. Regional Upgrade

### a. Overview

The Regional Upgrade component of the Program provides an opportunity for Regional promotion. The program runs annually and is comprised of three phases:

1. Application Phase
2. Entry Phase
3. Upgrading Phase

The Regional Upgrade process is in line with the BC Referee Pathway fostering learning environments for officials on the Performance Pathway seeking Regional classification. Each phase outlines specific tasks/requirements in order to move on to the next phase in the process. **Note:** Any late, incomplete or incorrectly filled/submitted forms and documents will not be accepted.

### b. Cost

There is a one-time fee to cover the cost of the apparel for the Upgrade Program, which is required to participate. This fee is collected ahead of the in-person education weekend, and it includes the below aspects of the program:

- Online Education Knowledge Checks
- The cost of **three** Assessments (Applicable to phase 3 only. Any additional assessment requirements will be at the expense of the official)
- The cost of FIFA Fitness Testing
- In-Person Education Weekend
  - Expenses & Accommodations (Included where applicable)
- BC Soccer Upgrading Apparel

### c. Phase 1: Application

The following items must be completed in order to progress with the Application Phase.

Item	Detail
Application Form	Completed with all fields filled (online application form). Note: All applicants must be a registered Grade 8 Referee prior to applying for the Regional Upgrading Program. <a href="#">Click here to submit your application.</a>
Game Log	Must submit a game log from the previous or current season of the application year. Must only submit top 15 games as Referee and 10 as an Assistant Referee in <a href="#">qualifying matches</a> . If the minimum number of games are not met from the previous or current season, the Application Game Log will be considered upon review. <a href="#">Download a game log template here (File&gt;Download&gt;Excel)</a>
Eligible Assessment	Must have 1 assessment as a Referee at or above competency for a <a href="#">qualifying match</a> . Meeting competency requires a mark of 8.3-8.4. Above competency mark is 8.5.
Fitness Test	Must have completed either the FIFA Fitness Test at the Regional Standard or a Beep Test Level 8

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> OF THE APPLICATION YEAR**

**d. Phase 2: Entry**

The following requirements must be completed as compulsory pre-requisites to progress to the next phase if accepted to the program. Note: you must be a registered Referee to participate in any of the following requirements.

Item	Detail
Online Knowledge Checks	Participate in all mandatory online education knowledge checks.
Canada Soccer Upgrading Exam	Pass the Canada Soccer Regional Upgrade Exam with a minimum mark of 80%.
Education Weekend	Educational weekend with focus on practical training and in-class theory and law. In-person attendance is mandatory. Typically hosted in April in the lower mainland.

**e. Phase 3: Upgrading**

The following requirements must be completed as compulsory elements to complete the upgrading program.

Item	Detail
Game Log	10 qualifying games as a Referee and 10 qualifying games as an Assistant Referee. All matches must meet the criteria for <a href="#">an assessable and qualifying game</a> as outlined in the appendix.
Assessments	Three assessments above competency as a District Referee. Referees must complete at least one assessment for a male match and at least one assessment for a female match, and all assessments must meet the criteria for <a href="#">an assessable and qualifying game</a> . Note: Meeting competency requires a mark of 8.3-8.4. A mark above competency is 8.5.
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Regional Level Fitness test on or before November 30 of the current year
Additional	Overall good standing with BC Soccer.

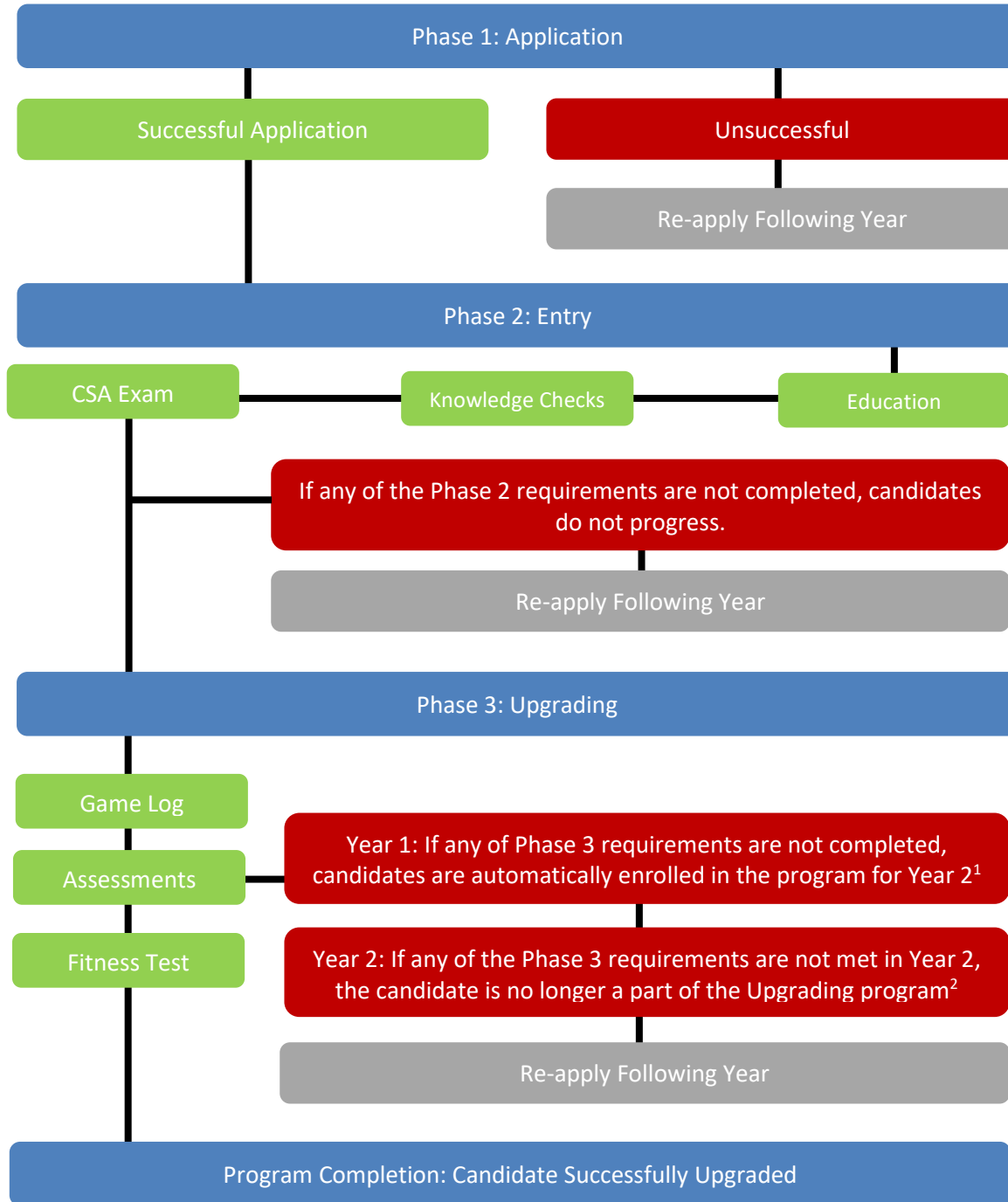
**f. Assessments**

Assessment	Fee
Minimum of 3 - Maximum of 5 per upgrading season will be permitted.	\$80.00 per assessment (First 3 assessments included)

**DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> OF THE UPGRADE YEAR**

**g. Outcome Overview**

The following outlines the candidate upgrading pathway outlining requirements along each phase illustrated below.



<sup>1</sup> Unless the candidate advises in writing that they no longer wish to continue. A second program fee does not apply, but the cost of all assessments must be incurred at the expense of the candidate. Note: Candidates are required to successfully complete a FIFA Fitness test in Year 2 to proceed with the remainder of the Upgrading Requirements.

<sup>2</sup> It will be advised and recommended that officials who do not meet upgrading requirements to spend an additional year at the District classification to work on improving development areas.

### 3. Provincial Upgrade

#### a. Overview

The Provincial Upgrade component of the Program provides an opportunity for Provincial promotion. The program runs annually and is comprised of three phases:

1. Application Phase
2. Entry Phase
3. Upgrading Phase

The Provincial Upgrading process is in line with the BC Referee Pathway fostering learning environments for officials along the Performance Pathway seeking Provincial classification. Each phase outlines specific tasks/requirements in order to move on to the next phase in the process. **Note:** Any late, incomplete or incorrectly filled/submitted forms and documents will not be accepted.

#### b. Cost

There is a one-time fee to cover the cost of the apparel for the Upgrade Program, which is required to participate. The fee is collected ahead of the in-person education weekend, and it includes:

- Online Education Knowledge Checks
- The cost of **three** Assessments (Applicable to phase 3 only. Any remaining assessment requirements will be at the expense of the official)
- The cost of FIFA Fitness Testing
- In-Person Education Weekend
  - Expenses & Accommodations (Included where applicable)
  - BC Soccer Upgrading Apparel

#### c. Phase 1: Application

The following items must be completed in order to progress with the Application Phase.

Item	Detail
Application Form	Completed with all fields filled (online application form). Note: All applicants must be a registered Referee Regional prior to applying for the Provincial Upgrading Program. <a href="#">Click here to submit your application</a>
Game Log	Must submit a game log from the previous or current season of the application year. Must only submit top 15 games as Referee and 10 as an Assistant Referee <a href="#">in qualifying matches</a> . If the minimum number of games are not met from the previous or current season, the Application Game Log will be considered upon review. <a href="#">Download a game log template here (File&gt;Download&gt;Excel)</a>
Eligible Assessment	Must have 1 assessment as a Referee at or above competency for a <a href="#">qualifying match</a> . Meeting competency requires a mark of 8.3-8.4. Above competency mark is 8.5.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> OF THE APPLICATION YEAR**

**d. Phase 2: Entry**

The following requirements must be completed as compulsory pre-requisites to progress to the next phase if accepted to the program. Unlike the Regional Upgrade Entry Phase, candidates must pass the fitness test to enter the Provincial Upgrade program. This is because candidates sent to the CSA Provincial Promotion course must have passed the provincial fitness test. Note: you must be a registered Referee to participate in any of the following requirements.

Item	Detail
Online Knowledge Checks	Participate in all mandatory online education knowledge checks.
Canada Soccer Upgrading Exam	Pass the Canada Soccer Provincial Upgrade Exam with a minimum mark of 80%.
Fitness Test	Pass the FIFA Provincial Level Fitness test on or before May 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year.
Education Weekend	Educational weekend with focus on practical training and in-class theory and law. In-person attendance is mandatory. Typically held in May in Ontario or Quebec.

**e. Phase 3: Upgrading**

The following requirements must be completed as compulsory pre-requisites to complete the upgrading program.

Item	Detail
Game Log	10 qualifying games as a Referee and 10 qualifying games as an Assistant Referee. All matches must meet the criteria for <a href="#">an assessable and qualifying game</a> as outlined in the appendix.
Assessments	Three assessments above competency as a Regional Referee. Referees must complete at least one assessment for a male adult match and at least one assessment for a female adult match, and all assessments must meet the criteria for <a href="#">an assessable and qualifying game</a> . Note: Meeting competency requires a mark of 8.3-8.4. A mark above competency is 8.5.
Additional	Overall good standing with BC Soccer.

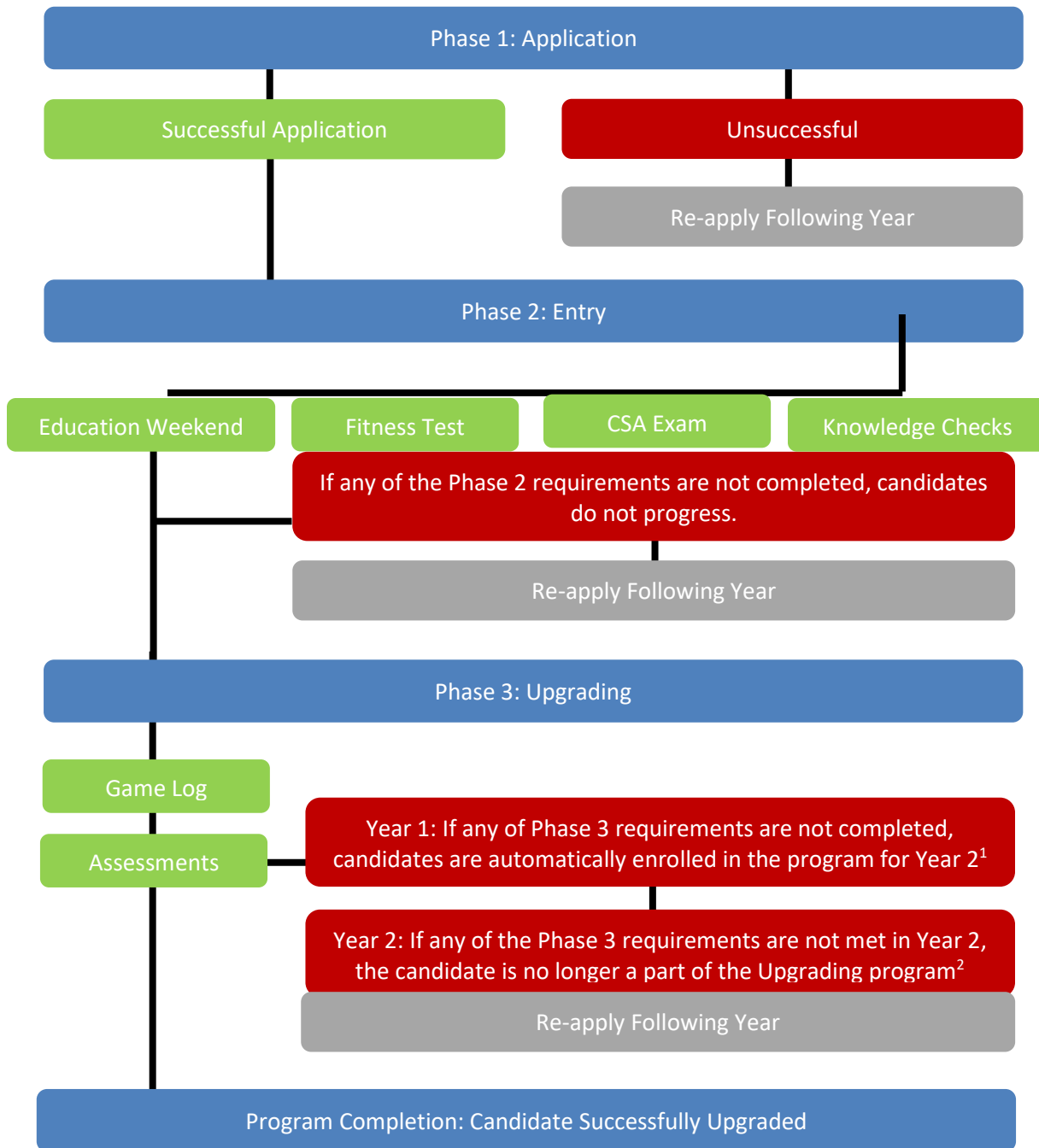
**f. Assessments**

Assessment	Fee
Minimum of 3 - Maximum of 5 per upgrading season will be permitted.	\$80.00 per assessment (First 3 assessments included)

**DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> OF THE UPGRADING YEAR**

**g. Outcome Overview**

The following outlines the candidate upgrading pathway outlining requirements along each phase illustrated below.



<sup>1</sup> Unless the candidate advises in writing that they no longer wish to continue. A second program fee does not apply, but the cost of all assessments must be incurred at the expense of the candidate. Note: Candidates are required to successfully complete a FIFA Fitness test in Year 2 to proceed with the remainder of the Upgrading Requirements.

<sup>2</sup> It will be advised and recommended that officials who do not meet upgrading requirements to spend an additional year at the Regional classification to work on improving development areas.

## APPENDIX

## a. Assessable and Qualifying Games Chart – Regional

Assessable and Qualifying Games – Regional Upgrade	
Youth	BCSPL - U15+
	Other Youth Leagues – Tier 2 U16+ (Tier Below BCSPL)
	Provincial Championship – U16+
	National Championship - Any
Adult	Amateur Leagues - Top 4 Divisions -Masters/O35 – Top Division
	League 1 BC - Any
	U Sports - Any
	Provincial Championships - Any

## b. Assessable and Qualifying Games Chart – Provincial

Assessable and Qualifying Games – Provincial Upgrade	
Youth	BCSPL - U17
	Provincial Championship – U17+ (A Cup)
	National Championship - Any
Adult	Amateur Leagues - Top 2 Divisions
	League 1 BC - Any
	U Sports - Any
	Provincial Championships - Any