

# So you failed your assessment, now what?

**By Andy Weiss, State Referee Administrator**

An assessment is a tool for you to receive valuable feedback, in the hopes that you can take this information and use it to better your game. For the vast majority of assessments there is no such thing as failing. If an assessment can help you improve then the assessment has been a success.

Of course, for many referees, especially those seeking upgrade, there are some specific requirements to achieving and maintaining a level of proficiency, and this may often be measured in terms of pass or fail.

For referees seeking upgrade, they are expected to perform at the level of the grade to which they aspire. That means if you are trying to become a grade 7 referee, you need to be able to handle the types of games that are expected of that grade, which include all U-19 matches. If you are not yet adept in a typical U-19 match, the assessor will probably not pass you for your upgrade.

To get to any grade you will need to pass a certain minimum number of assessments. You need one for grade 7, and three for grade 6 or 5. Besides just passing the minimum, USSF has certain rules about how many assessments you can have along the way. In all cases, we expect you to pass more than you fail.

That means that whenever you fail an assessment, you must be re-assessed, perhaps more than once, to make sure that you have more results on the positive side than on the negative.

Additionally, a referee seeking upgrade may only fail two assessments in a year. This limit is necessary because there are only so many assessors to go around, and it would be unfair to use up all of the available resources (both manpower and money) on just one referee.

Ultimately, we hope that you never fail an assessment. If you do, try not to take it personally. Use the guidance from the assessor to improve your performance so that your next attempt is a success. Assessors truly do enjoy seeing the people that they've worked with do well!

For a full text of assessment policies and procedures, please visit our web site ([www.massref.net](http://www.massref.net)) or send an email to [SDA@massref.net](mailto:SDA@massref.net).