

Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials

SOC: 27-2023 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$38,820

Median Salary

19,300

Employment

+6.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Decision-making skills, Good vision, Physical stamina, Teamwork

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials oversee **games and sporting events to enforce rules, ensure fair play, and maintain safety**. They make decisions on plays, resolve disputes, and communicate rulings to players and coaches. Their work is critical in sports competitions, leagues, and recreational activities.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy sports, fairness, and decision-making under pressure.

What Do Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials Do?

These professionals officiate games, monitor player behavior, and ensure compliance with rules and regulations.

Common responsibilities include:

- Enforcing rules and regulations during sporting events
- Making judgment calls on plays, penalties, and scores
- Maintaining control and safety of the game
- Communicating decisions clearly to players, coaches, and spectators
- Attending training, meetings, and certification courses
- Keeping records of game outcomes and incidents
- Collaborating with other officials and league organizers

Key Areas of Sports Officiating

Officials may specialize in particular sports, levels of competition, or officiating roles:

- Game Management: Overseeing rules and flow of play
- Judgment and Decision-Making: Making calls on plays and resolving disputes
- Safety Oversight: Ensuring player safety and adherence to standards
- Communication and Teamwork: Coordinating with other officials and staff
- Training and Certification: Maintaining proficiency and knowledge of sport rules

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine knowledge of sports, quick decision-making, and interpersonal skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires sport-specific training, certification, and experience:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent (minimum): Basic knowledge and understanding of sports
- Officiating Training Programs: Instruction in rules, regulations, and game management
- Certification or Licensing: Required for certain sports or competitive levels
- Experience: Practicing officiating at amateur or youth levels
- Continuing Education: Staying current with rule changes, techniques, and best practices

Where Do Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials Work?

They are employed in organizations overseeing sports competitions at various levels:

- Professional and Amateur Sports Leagues
- High Schools and Colleges
- Community and Recreational Programs
- Sporting Events and Tournaments

- Youth and Development Programs

Work environments include sports fields, courts, stadiums, gyms, and outdoor venues.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires knowledge of sport rules, quick decision-making, and physical fitness. Officials must manage players, enforce fairness, and maintain control under pressure.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy sports and understand game rules
- Can make fair, quick, and confident decisions
- Are physically active and alert
- Have strong communication and conflict resolution skills
- Want a career ensuring fair play and safety in athletic competitions

How to Prepare Early

- Study the rules and strategies of specific sports
- Gain experience by officiating youth, amateur, or recreational games
- Participate in training programs, clinics, or certification courses
- Develop communication, leadership, and decision-making skills
- Maintain physical fitness and stamina for active game environments

Umpires, referees, and other sports officials ensure fair play, safety, and adherence to rules, contributing to the integrity and enjoyment of athletic competitions.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/entertainment-and-sports/umpires-referees-and-other-sports-officials.htm>