

MARYLAND BOARD OF FOOTBALL OFFICIALS  
AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICIES  
Repeal of Uniform Policy dated June 26, 1993  
New Uniform and Equipment Policy Effective: August 28, 2018

**I. Uniform**

No active member shall wear a uniform during any football game officiated on behalf of the Board which is not neat and clean, and consistent with the standards set forth below:

Shirt

All officials and timers must wear a 1” black and white vertically striped, long or short-sleeved shirt, with a black knit cuff & Byron collar. Officials must affix the MPSSAA patch to the right arm, mid shoulder. The official’s number placard must be attached to the back of the shirt, between the shoulder blades. Officials must all wear the same sleeve length shirt during a game. It shall be the decision of the crew prior to the start of the game whether to wear long or short sleeves. All undershirts must be black. During foul weather, officials may wear additional layers and/or water-resistant articles underneath their officiating shirt so long as any visible undershirt is black.

Pants and Belts

For all games and paid scrimmages, officials must wear black football officiating pants with 1-1/4” white stripe running from waist to cuff. A solid black belt with a thickness of at least 1” shall be worn. For unpaid scrimmages, officials may wear solid black athletic shorts. Timers may wear solid black pants.

Hats

The black referee cap with white pipping should be worn by all officials and timers during every game. The solid white hat should only be worn by the Referee. All caps must be fitted (i.e., not adjustable), and may contain a small manufacturer’s logo on the side of the hat. During cold weather games, officials may wear athletic headwear or earmuffs underneath the official’s hat.

Shoes and Socks

All officials and timers must wear predominantly black athletic shoes. Shoes may have minor white coloring or logos but should remain mostly black. Black socks are required. Officials may wear cleats and/or turf shoes as appropriate. All shoes must keep clean and free from mud or dirt. It is recommended that officials have two pairs of shoes, one for grass and one for turf.

Chain Crew Uniforms

For paid chain crew assignments, all chain crew members must wear the same uniform set forth above. However, chain crew members may wear solid black jackets or MBFO logo pullovers.

Optional Uniform Accessories

- A solid black windbreaker or reversible black jacket can be worn during pre-game and halftime duties in cold/inclement weather.
- Predominately black athletic gloves may be worn during cold or inclement weather.
- Officials may wear an American flag patch sewn onto the left breast pocket of the shirt
- The Umpire may wear a solid black towel during inclement weather to keep the ball dry.

## **II. Equipment**

The following equipment is mandatory for each on-field official during every contest officiated on behalf of the Board:

- At least one, but no more than two, standard gold penalty flags with either a gold or black ball
- Bean bag, either white, blue, or black. The line judge in a 4-official game, the back judge in a 5-official game, or the field and side judges in a 6-official game, shall carry two different color bean bags
- A Fox 40 whistle; probationary officials must use a finger whistle, while regular members may use a whistle on a black neck lanyard
- Down indicator
- Game card and writing utensil
- Digital watch or electronic timing device
- The head linesman shall bring a clip to be used by the chain crew
- Referees must use a coin for the coin toss
- All officials and timers must bring and use their issued radios and headsets for all varsity and post-season assignments. Radios may be used during sub-varsity games at the discretion of the Referee. All officials must ensure their radios are charged prior each game.
- During the month of October, to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month, officials may use pink colored equipment, such as bean bags, whistles, small pins or insignias, down indicator, or black hats with pink pipping.

## **III. Enforcement of Policy**

An official who wears a uniform that does not conform to this policy shall be:

1. Warned for the first offense in a season
2. Fined \$10 for a second offense in the same season
3. Fine \$20 for a third offense in the same season
4. Fined \$50 for a fourth offense in the same season
5. Subject to further disciplinary action as permitted by the bylaws for more than five offenses in the same season