

FFWCT Tournament Uniform Standards



Officials that wear great looking uniforms send a positive message to players and coaches. Take pride in yourself and the profession!

2" Varsity FOOTBALL Stripes

Bring both long sleeve and short sleeve 2" varsity football stripes.

Temperature can swing widely, be prepared!



There is a difference, get in the right uniform!

1" / V Neck / No Pocket /
Basketball Stripes



2" Stripes with collar



These Items are acceptable on Shirts

- ✓ American Flag
- ✓ College plackets / CFO designations
- ✓ State High School or College Association patches
- ✓ FFWCT or other high-level flag leagues you have officiated with



Long Pants with Stripe



- The choice of pants versus shorts will be set by your style director each day
- Be prepared either way and have both on-hand (not at the hotel)
- Pants must have a white stripe. Pockets and worn with a black belt.
- Rain gear pants must be black.
- No jogging pants etc., wear real referee pants, this is the big stage!

Shorts



- Must be black, with pockets and worn with a black belt.
- Not required to have white stripe down the leg but is suggested
- No draw-string type pants, sweat pants, cargo pants – look professional

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING



2 Yellow Flags



Black with Piping



All visible undergarments
must be black



Shoe and socks
must be mostly black



Throw Down Bean Bag
color is optional



Black Belt
Pants must be worn
with a belt



Coin for Tossing

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING



Timing Watch
Do NOT use Phone



Whistle



Down Indicator



Small Notebook



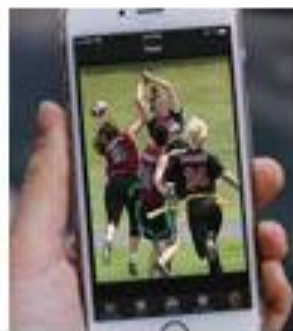
Ball Marker / Puck

- It has become a tradition with the FFWCT: We encourage those of you that are **military veterans** to show your service pride on the field. You can wear a conservative branch hat instead of the traditional pipes and stripes hat. Thank you for your service to our country.



GAME OFFICIAL'S BEST PRACTICES / POLICIES:

Recording Devices:



Officials may not use any recording or replay device to make decisions about the game.

Cell Phones As Timers:



Do not use a cell phone as a timing device. It looks unprofessional and spectators will think you are on social media. Use a sports stop watch.

Cell Phones On The Field:



You may have your phone with you on the field for your personal and player safety.

Look The Part:



Shirts must remain tucked in anywhere the public can see you. Officials are always "on stage".

Sunglasses:



Game officials may wear sunglasses on the field but keep them conservative and professional looking.

Professional Image:



Don't be a "Gun-Slinger". Tuck your flag and bean bag into your beltline too look professional. Do not let it hang out of your pocket. It looks sloppy and like you are looking for a reason to throw your flag.

Rain Gear:



Official may wear a black or mostly black rain/wind jacket and/or gloves during games. However, uniformity is important. Both officials wear a jacket or no officials wear a jacket. DO NOT wear a poncho, use an umbrella or anything else that would reduce your professional appearance.

Uniform Care Tips:



Striped shirt:

- Turn your shirt inside-out before washing
- Wash in COLD water
- Wash separately from other garments, air dry

Hats: Wash in a dish washer if possible, air dry

Bean Bags / Flags: Soak in soap and cold water, air dry

Whistle: Rinse regularly with soap and hot water.

Body Language:



Be aware of what messages you are sending with your body language. Don't cross your arms in front of you. Do not cheer, laugh, shake your head or get excited about a play. Stay professional.

Pace Of Play:



Hustle but don't hurry. Keep a consistent brisk pace throughout the game not just in the last few minutes.

Ball Control:



For safety reasons and to avoid losing control of the ball, use short underhanded tosses when relaying the ball to another official.

SOUND OFF! No Timid Officials!!



Announce constantly. Echo your fellow officials also to keep all sidelines informed.

Sell Your Calls:



Practice strong whistle mechanics, strong flag mechanics and use crisp, clear hand signals combined with a strong, confident voice. If you can't sell, no one will believe you.

Wave It Off:



If a ball carrier is called for flag-guarding but the defender comes up with a legal flag pull anyway, you do not have a flag-guarding foul. Be mature enough to give the "disregard flag" signal. You can't have flag guarding if the flag was captured.

Memorize Proper Mechanics:

Officiating mechanics are designed to allow the game to be played fairly and ensure the safety. Missed calls can be forgiven, improper positioning cannot.



Officiating Mechanics: Line to Place to make best call. (17) must be clear of backfield.
Line Judge: Must be in the backfield (18) on the Line of Scrimmage.
Down Judge: Must be in the backfield and observe the play from the back.
Line and Down Judge: Line to Place on the play, Down Judge in secondary role if the Line Judge is unavailable.

Don't Get Caught Out of Position:



You can't sell your call if you are in the wrong place. Study your Mechanics and know where to be to make your best call.

Use the Escalation Ladder When Things Get Heated



Helps you decide an appropriate way of dealing with difficult situations.

This is not a road map to be followed exactly. It doesn't have to be followed step-by-step. However, try to handle the situation at the lowest level possible if appropriate.

Escalation Ladder Options:

- Removal from event (Pick 6 Staff Decision)
- Ejection (both officials must agree)
- Disqualification (individual officials decision)
- Cool Down (5 plays, minimum)
- Flag for Unsportsmanlike Conduct etc.
- Warning (last chance, let coach know)
- Talk to (free advice, they should take it)
- Preventative Officiating (don't let it get out of hand)

Escalation Ladder



Removal (*Director decision*)

Eject (*Entire crew decision*)

Disqualification (*Individual Refs decision*)

Cool Down (*5 plays min.*)

Coach / CPT Warning

Talk To (*Free Advice*)

Preventative Officiating

Personal Fouls / Unsportsmanlike Flags always an options.
This is not a roadmap, these are options to be used as appropriate