



NHFOA Dress Code

On-Field, Off-Field, Travel

Updated August 2022

On-Field Dress Code

The uniforms should fit properly and be clean and neat. – NFHS Game Officials Manual

Shirt: 2-inch black and white vertically striped game official shirt with collar and a pocket on the left breast. Regular Members shall wear the approved NHFOA emblem (either patch or sublimated) on the left sleeve, centered 2 inches down from the shoulder seam. All members shall wear the American flag (either patch or sublimated) on the right sleeve, centered 2 inches down from the shoulder seam. The American flag should be the reversed style (as seen below).



Pants: Black, full length, with belt loops, front and back pockets and single, 1 and ¼ inch white stripe down each leg. Pants shall be hemmed to the top of the shoe, and black socks must be worn when wearing black pants.

Shorts: All black officiating shorts may be worn in place of pants by majority vote of crew. If the shorts have loops, a black belt as described below is required. Compression shorts, when worn, shall not show from beneath the shorts. Black ankle socks are required to be worn with shorts. Socks can be no longer than ankle height. All officials in a game are to wear the same type shorts. (No gym shorts)

Caps: Black baseball-style cap, flex fit or sized (not adjustable), with white piping is required. For identification, the referee shall wear a solid white cap of the same style.

Shoes and Belt: Black football shoes, which may include white accents, with black laces are required. Shoes should be shined before each game. A black leather belt 1 and 1/4 to 2 inches wide with a plain buckle shall be worn.

Undershirts: Any undershirt that shows shall be all black (this includes turtlenecks).

Mandatory game equipment:

Whistle: Whistle and lanyard, or finger-style whistle shall be used (Fox 40 style recommend. A back-up whistle should be carried. Pink whistle and lanyard are required when designated by the Council to recognize cancer awareness.

Foul Marker: Standard gold or black tipped foul marker shall be used. Two foul markers should be carried inconspicuously and shall not be altered with tape or other foreign material.

Bean Bags: Each member of the crew shall carry two blue or white primary beanbags. The crew shall vote (majority rule) on the color of the primary beanbag to be used for a specific game. The Back Judge and the Line Judge shall carry a blue and white bean bag, with the non-primary color bean bag used to mark the end of kicks.

Down Indicator: Elastic down indicators shall be used by all crew members.

Watch: A black sports style watch with countdown feature shall be worn.

Information Card: An information card and pen/pencil, to record pertinent game data such as coin toss results, captains/coach's names, etc., shall be carried.

Chain Clip: The Head Linesman shall supply a clip, used to mark the yard line closest to the rear stake of the line-to-gain equipment. The clip should be labeled in 5-yard increments to match the yard line markings. The Head Linesman shall also provide the chain crew with a bean bag used to mark the location of the box inside the 10-yard line in case it is moved during the down. This beanbag shall be any other color than blue or white, so that it will not be confused with a beanbag thrown by an official to mark a spot.

Timing Device: The Back Judge shall wear a 25/40 second timing device (e.g., a Ready Ref) for managing play count and timeouts.

Optional Uniform Equipment:

Gloves: Gloves, when worn, shall be black.

Jackets: A reversible striped and black standard jacket with knit black Byron collar and black cuffs is optional. The entire crew may wear jackets with the all-black side on the exterior during pre-game and intermissions, but not during a game. During a game, if any crew member wears a jacket, it shall be worn under the uniform shirt. Numbers or emblems on the jacket are prohibited.

Towel: A black towel may be worn by the Umpire during a contest. The towel must be free from adornments or logos.

Off-Field Dress Code: Auxiliary Officials (Line to gain crew and clock operator)

The clock operator shall wear the following:

White (referee's) cap

2-inch striped official's shirt (either length)

Officials' black shorts or pants or black slacks

Back up timepiece in case of game clock malfunction

Line to Gain crew shall wear the following:

Black (official's) cap

Grey NHFOA Tee shirt or black NHFOA polo shirt (entire crew must wear the same)

Officials' black shorts or pants

Game shoes (black, or black with white highlights)

A jacket if needed, black

Clip-person shall provide two clips

Varsity Game Travel Dress Code

To uphold the well-respected, professional image of the New Hampshire Football Officials Association, members of the NHFOA shall arrive and depart from a Varsity contest in one of the following manners:

Slacks with NHFOA embroidered polo style shirt

Slacks with NHFOA embroidered button-down collared shirt

Slacks with collared dress shirt and sport coat/suit jacket

Slacks with collared dress shirt, tie, and sport coat/suit jacket

Members shall wear appropriate socks and shoes (no sandals or sneakers) and slacks (dress pants or khaki style pants – no jeans or cargo pants).

Exceptions to this policy may be made when dressing room conditions, game site locations or multiple games in a day make it impractical. Such exceptions must be approved by the Commissioner prior to the contest.

All post season contest officials will wear slacks, collared dress shirt, tie, and sport coat/suit jacket to and from the game site.