

Referee Equipment

Get your equipment together and have it ready before you have to leave for your game. Remember, this is a job and the job requires that you wear a uniform. Even if we don't like parts of the uniform, we accepted the job knowing that we don't get to pick the uniform. Look like a professional!

Here is the basic equipment that you should have at the entry level:

- A bag to carry your equipment. This can be a gym bag, a duffel bag, a backpack or whatever you find convenient. DO NOT use a bag that is affiliated with a team, club or school - you're just looking for trouble if you do that.
- A smaller container to keep all of your small items (whistles, badges, pens, etc.) handy in your bag. You can purchase a small toiletry bag or something from Official Sports. But a zip lock bag or a small plastic or Tupperware type container will serve the same purpose.
- Jersey(s). Your first jersey should be the gold color. The design of the shirts changed in late 2007, but both the "old" and "new" pinstripe designs are acceptable. If you plan on working tournaments, you should have at least two different color jerseys. After gold, I'd recommend getting shirts in the following order: red, black, blue, green.
- Shorts. These should be all black shorts. Look like a professional - invest in a pair of referee shorts.
- Socks. These should be black socks with three white stripes at the top. (There are two other designs now sold. Don't bother getting anything except the three-stripe socks.)
- Shoes. They should be mostly black. You can wear cleats, turfs, sneakers - whatever is most comfortable.
- Your badge. Make sure that you remember to get the Velcro piece for the back of your badge so that it will stick to your shirt. (Keep it in your small container - don't leave it on the shirt.)
- Whistle(s). Fox 40 is the preferred style of whistle by most referees. Practice with your whistle before you go to the field. Get a lanyard also.
- Paper. You can buy one of the small wallets - and they include red and yellow cards - for \$2.00 from Official Sports. Don't bother buying the pads of score sheets that they sell. Just cut plain paper into a size that fits in the wallet.
- Pen or pencil. Personally, I prefer a pen, but whatever works for you. Make sure that you have a couple of them in case one stops working.
- Cards. Yellow and red. If you buy the \$2.00 data wallet, they come with it.
- A digital watch that has either a count up or count down function.
- Assistant Referee flags.
- A coin. Keep a couple of quarters in your small bag. That way if you lose one, it only costs twenty-five cents to replace it.
- Something to drink. Bring water or a sport drink to make sure that you stay hydrated. You will be working as hard as the players.

Official Sports sells an entry level kit (actually, a few different kits) that include many of the required items. Check their website at www.officialsports.com.