

As you go through the various boys lacrosse officiating material (from USA Lacrosse and from the MHSAA), you will find some differing information on what the uniform requirements are. So, this document helps clarify that, especially for newer officials.

**In the interest of wearing matching or coordinated uniforms, in the Grand Rapids area, we wear 1" striped shirts. We also wear either black shorts (no stripe) or black pants (no stripes). If a jacket is worn (during inclement weather), the jacket is all black. That is the GRALOA standard. FYI, we do not currently have a GRALOA patch.**

**All officials working a game should be in the same uniform combination ...**

The uniform combinations are:

**shorts/shorts ...**

- 1" striped short-sleeve shirts
- black shorts
- black over the ankle socks
- black shoes
- black cap with white piping

This is the most likely the combination you will wear, especially later in the season.



**shorts/longs ...**

- 1" striped short-sleeve shirts
- black long pants
- black socks
- black shoes
- black cap with white piping

A good early season combination.



**longs/longs ...**

- 1" striped long-sleeve shirts
- black long pants
- black socks
- black shoes
- black cap with white piping

Early season, cold day combination.



**longs/shorts ...**

- 1" striped long-sleeve shirts,
- black shorts
- black over the ankle socks
- black shoes
- black cap with white piping

This will rarely be a combination we wear.



Usually, the designated Referee for the game will determine the uniform combination to be used. It's good practice to bring appropriate gear/clothing to all contests so that you are ready for any of the combinations of uniforms.

**Given all the previous information, here is what I think each GRALOA Boys' Lacrosse official needs to have, as a minimum:**

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
1" stripe, short-sleeve shirt - You will need a minimum of one of these shirts ... depending how often you want to do laundry.	USA100MI <sup>2</sup> , CorrectCall, \$39.99  If you are not registered with the MHSAA <sup>3</sup> (meaning, by our standards, you cannot officiate 7th grade and older in-season games), you will need to order a shirt without the MHSAA patch on it.	
1" stripe, long-sleeve shirt - You will need a minimum of one of these shirts ... depending how often you want to do laundry.	USA113MI <sup>2</sup> , CorrectCall, \$49.99  If you are not registered with the MHSAA <sup>3</sup> (meaning, by our standards, you cannot officiate 7th grade and older in-season games), you will need to order a shirt without the MHSAA patch on it.	
Black shorts - You will need a minimum of one pair of shorts ... depending how often you want to do laundry. - All black (no stripe). - Shorts should have pockets. - Shorts should have belt loops. - Minimum 6" inseam (per MHSAA and NFHS standards/rules). - Gym shorts are a sloppy look and do not meet professional standards.	FBS170, CorrectCall, \$24.99	

<sup>1</sup> There are various vendors to order from. Correct Call Officiating Outfitters (<https://www.ccofficiating.com/>) is the official supplier for the MHSAA. I have found their prices to be competitive and their service to be excellent. Of course, we can order our uniforms and accessories from any vendor that carries the official items we need.

<sup>2</sup> Assuming you are registered with the MHSAA, this is the best uniform shirt to get. The nice thing about this particular shirt is that the US flag and the MHSAA logo are sublimated on the shirt. No need to get any patches sewn on the shirt.

<sup>3</sup> We highly recommend that all GRALOA members register with the MHSAA.

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
<p>Black pants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You will need a minimum of one pair of pants ... depending how often you want to do laundry.</li> <li>- All black (no stripe).</li> <li>- Pants should have pockets.</li> <li>- Pants should have belt loops.</li> <li><b>- Sweat pants do not meet the professional standard.</b></li> <li>- Some officials find that all black golf pants work for them.</li> </ul>	<p>FBS179, CorrectCall, \$41.99<sup>4</sup></p> <p>or</p> <p>LAPH X, Honig's Lightweight Lacrosse Pants<sup>5</sup>, \$40.49 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</p>	
Belt – needs to be all black. (The NFHS Rules specify 1 ¼" to 2 inches in width).	<p>ACS561, CorrectCall, \$13.00 (1 ½" width)</p> <p>or</p> <p>ACS563<sup>6</sup>, CorrectCall, \$15.00 (1 ¾" width)</p> <p>or</p> <p>F61 xx, Honig's Boston Leather 1 ¾" Belt, \$26.09 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)<sup>7</sup></p>	
Hat – black w/ white piping. The hat should be fit to your head size (not an adjustable hat).	<p>HT100 – Smitty Black w/ White Piping Flex Fit Football Hat, \$9.99</p> <p>or</p> <p>F32 B xx/x, Honigs Richardson Fitted Football Hat – Black w/ White Piping, \$15.29 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</p>	
Under garment items	<p>Any <u>all black</u> "under armour" type of tee shirt.</p> <p>Jock and/or spandex athletic shorts, if desired.</p>	
Socks, over the ankle	Any all black ankle socks ... to wear with the shorts.	
Socks, crew or over the calf	Any all black socks ... to wear with the pants.	

<sup>4</sup> The pants come unhemmed. So, you order your waist size and will need to get the proper length hemmed. I use a local dry cleaner (Hulst & Son Dry Cleaners) to hem my officiating pants.

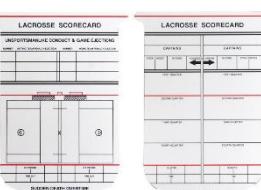
<sup>5</sup> These pants come unhemmed; however, there is an option (for \$14.99 extra) to have them hemmed.

<sup>6</sup> This is the belt that meets the football officiating width – 1 ¾" – criteria.

<sup>7</sup> This is a more expensive belt, but also a much better quality.

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
<p>Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The "lacrosse standard" is <u>all black</u> (with black laces).</li> <li>- Find a shoe that is comfortable to run in.</li> <li>- We will work on both turf and grass, so you may want a pair for turf and a pair for grass.</li> </ul>	<p>I happen to like New Balance shoes, so here is one example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Balance Field Shoe-MU950V3, Honig's, \$80.99 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</li> </ul>	
<p>Jacket (for inclement weather games)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note: If you wear a jacket during the game, all officials for that game must wear a jacket.</li> <li>- Often, the jacket is worn to the game and/or during halftime, etc. In that case, all officials do not have to wear a jacket.</li> </ul>	<p>Any <u>all black</u> jacket will do.</p> <p>We do have three jacket options, with the GRALOA logo embroidered, that can be ordered from All Star Printing<sup>8</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is the "gold standard" ... many of our officials have this jacket ... <b>Port Authority J900 Collective Outer Shell Jacket</b>, can order from All Star Printing (Grand Rapids) and have the GRALOA logo added. Cost is about \$70.</li> <li>- Burnside BU4209754 Water Resistant Hooded Windbreaker, cost is about \$30. You would need to call All Star Printing to order and have the GRALOA logo added. See footnote at bottom of page.</li> <li>- Champion CN420CO200 Packable Anorak Jacket, cost is about \$35. You would need to call All Star Printing to order and have the GRALOA logo added. See footnote at bottom of page.</li> </ul>	
Additional cold weather gear	<p>For early season games, you may want to layer underneath your uniform.</p> <p>Also, if you want to wear gloves, they should be all black.</p>	

<sup>8</sup> To order a jacket from All Star Printing, you would call them (616-530-7464) to specify which jacket you want. You should identify yourself as a member of GRALOA (lacrosse official) and specify that you want our logo embroidered on the jacket. You will pay for it with a credit card over the phone, and pick it up when they have it ready. FYI, they also have golf/sport shirts available with our logo embroidered if you want something nice to wear to the game prior to putting your game shirt on. Contact our GRALOA secretary ([graloa.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:graloa.secretary@gmail.com)) for additional details if you need them.

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
<p>Whistle<sup>9</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many lacrosse officials use a finger whistle, so that is shown as one example.</li> <li>- You can also use a whistle on a lanyard.</li> <li><b>- Fox 40 is the officiating “standard” for whistles.</b></li> <li>- It’s not a bad idea to have a spare whistle that you carry.</li> </ul>	<p>Fox 40 Finger Whistle, OfficiallySports<sup>10</sup>, \$8.00</p> <p>Fox 40 Sonik Blast CMG Finger Whistle, OfficiallySports, \$9.00<sup>11</sup></p>	
<p>Flags</p> <p><b>- You will need a minimum of TWO flags.</b> For lacrosse officiating, it is not unusual to have to use two flags.</p> <p>- Most officials probably use the flag with the black ball (looks better when tucked in the belt).</p>	<p>ACS511 (specify black ball color), CorrectCall, \$5.00</p> <p>or</p> <p>F71BL, Honig's Long Throw Ball Type Penalty Flag – Yellow w/ Black Ball<sup>12</sup>, \$11.69 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</p>	
<p>Game cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These reusable cards are also used for stick measurement checks.</li> <li>- I also carry 3"x5" cards for making any other game notes I want to keep.</li> </ul>	<p>ACS540, CorrectCall, \$5.00</p>	
<p>Pencil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A “bullet” pencil fits nicely in your shirt pocket. You will use this to write on your game card.</li> <li>- Best to buy two.</li> </ul>	<p>Smitty Bullet Pencil, OfficiallySports, \$2.00</p> <p>or</p> <p>F83, Honig's Bullet Pencil, \$2.70 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</p>	

<sup>9</sup> I prefer the CMG (cushioned mouth guard) whistle.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.officiallysports.com/> Since CorrectCall doesn’t carry all the accessories we need (including Fox 40 whistles), this is my next “go to” place for officiating gear. You can also order this from Honig’s (slightly more), but might save on shipping if you are ordering other things from Honig’s.

<sup>11</sup> The SonikBlast whistle will be a bit louder, and sometimes for a new official, this is helpful.

<sup>12</sup> This is a much better flag to throw higher.

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
<p>Timer</p> <p><b>- IMPORTANT ... all lacrosse officials will need to have their own timer. This applies to youth, high school, etc.</b></p> <p>- You will be timing 20 seconds multiple times every game.</p> <p>- Most timers can also be used for the 2-minute timeouts (using the 100 second + 20 second timing).</p> <p><b>- This is a required item!</b></p>	<p>There are multiple options. Here are a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Model 1150, Ready-Ref<sup>13</sup>, \$79.00</li> <li>- ZebraWear Digital 20/100 Second Timer, Honig's, \$75.99<sup>14</sup> (plus a 10% GRALOA discount)</li> <li>- Lacrosse Referee 20/100 Second Timer, RefTimer<sup>15</sup>, \$69.99</li> <li>- Lacrosse 20/100 second dual referee timer, UmpAttire<sup>16</sup>, \$89.99</li> </ul>	
<p>Tape measure</p> <p>- Something small/compact that fits into your pocket or on your belt. Ideally something that measures out to 72 inches as that is the max on long sticks.</p> <p><b>- Tape measures are typically only needed for Varsity games. We don't often use them for sub-Varsity contests.</b></p>	<p>You can find these on some of the officiating gear sites, but you can also just buy a small tape measure locally or on Amazon.</p>	
<p>Coin</p> <p>- There is a coin toss to begin every game. Carry something in your bag to use if you are the Referee for the game.</p>	<p>There are various coins to use ... your choice. Try to use something that is bigger than a quarter. MHSAA has a coin you can order.<sup>17</sup></p>	 <p><b>MHSAA coin:</b></p> 

<sup>13</sup> [https://ready-ref.com/store\\_timers/#lacrosse](https://ready-ref.com/store_timers/#lacrosse)

<sup>14</sup> <https://honigs.com/products/zebrawears-digital-20-100-second-timer>

<sup>15</sup> <https://reftimer.com/product/lacrosse-referee-20-100-second-timer/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ump-attire.com/Products/LT20100/Lacrosse-20-100-Second-Dual-Referee-Timer>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/Officials/Flip%20Coin%20Order%20Form.pdf>

Item Description	Item number, vendor <sup>1</sup> , current price	Picture
<p>Gear bag</p> <p>- You will need a gear bag to keep your "stuff" in, to take to the game, etc.</p> <p>- The bag should be black.</p>	<p>There are many possibilities. Most of the sites that sell officiating gear have various gear bags for sale as well.</p> <p>One example: Honig's Elite Duffel Bag (SKU: A91B), \$35.99 (with the GRALOA 10% discount)</p>	

Places I've found to order from:

- Correct Call Officiating Outfitters ([ccofficiating.com](http://ccofficiating.com))
- Officially Sports ([officiallysports.com](http://officiallysports.com))
- Purchase Officials ([purchaseofficials.com](http://purchaseofficials.com))
- Honig's ([honigs.com](http://honigs.com)) ... they offer a 10% GRALOA discount (enter code GRALOA10 in the 'Gift card or discount code' box)
- Ump-Attire ([ump-attire.com](http://ump-attire.com))
- Gerry Davis Sports ([gerrydavis.com](http://gerrydavis.com))

As you make your officiating journey, you will figure out what works best for you. You will find your own favorite places to order your uniforms and gear. I just put this together to give people a place to start.

Dress appropriately; dress professionally. Don't be "that guy".

*- Mike VanLaan*  
GRALOA Secretary