



OFFICIALS RESOURCE SERIES

Football Gear Guide

A practical checklist for arriving prepared, looking professional, and handling the assignment with confidence.

**THE
STANDARD**

Confirm every item against your state association, governing body, conference, and assigner requirements.

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Football Assignment Checklist

Build your bag around reliability: the correct uniform, duplicate critical tools, comfort items, and protection for the conditions.

UNIFORM & PRESENTATION

- Approved striped shirt for the level, position, and weather
- Black officiating pants or approved white knickers
- Black belt, black socks, and polished black turf shoes
- Approved black cap or white referee cap; cold-weather layers as permitted

ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- Primary and backup whistle
- Penalty flag, bean bags in required colors, down indicator, and game card
- Pencil, coin, chain clip if assigned, and timing device if required
- Position-specific equipment verified during the crew pregame

SMART BAG EXTRAS

- Rain shell, hand warmers, gloves, towel, sunscreen, and insect repellent
- Multiple flags/bean bags, spare cap, socks, laces, and whistle
- Waterproof pouch for game card and phone

Pack, Inspect, Perform

WHEN	WHAT TO DO
48-24 HOURS	Confirm venue, level, crew, uniform, arrival time, parking, payment process, and special instructions.
NIGHT BEFORE	Lay out the complete uniform. Charge devices. Test whistles/timers. Check weather and travel time.
ON ARRIVAL	Change or finish dressing privately. Inspect equipment. Meet the crew. Complete the required pregame.
AFTER GAME	Record game details, clean and dry gear, replace used supplies, and note anything needed before the next assignment.

AVOID THESE MISTAKES

- Using unfamiliar flags on game day
- Cotton layers that hold rain
- Skipping a position-by-position equipment check

Starter Budget Strategy

PRIORI TY	BUY FIRST	UPGRADE LATER
1	Required uniform and footwear	Second full uniform set
2	Required tools and protection	Premium bag/organizer
3	Backup whistle/timer and basics	Weather-specific duplicates

Important: This guide provides general preparation recommendations, not a universal uniform rule. Requirements vary by sport, season, level, state, conference, and governing body.