



OFFICIALS RESOURCE SERIES

Softball 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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Softball Assignment Checklist

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

UNIFORM & PRESENTATION

- Approved umpire shirt and pants for the sanctioning body
- Black belt, socks, cap, and polished umpire shoes
- Plate shoes and protective equipment for plate assignments
- Approved cold- or wet-weather layers

ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- Indicator, plate brush, lineup card holder, pencils
- Mask, chest protector, shin guards, protective cup
- Ball bags and game card
- Sanctioning-body mechanics or rule reference for pregame review

SMART BAG EXTRAS

- Sun protection, hydration, towel, hand warmers for early-season games
- Spare shirt, socks, cap, indicator, and mask hardware
- Cleaning cloth for shoes and plate gear

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

- Mixing uniform standards between organizations
- Keeping a phone visible on the field
- Failing to inspect mask straps and buckles

Starter Budget Strategy

PRIORITY	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.