

IOU Officiating Certification

Section 3: Standards of Behavior

What to Bring

- Cleats: Provide better traction for change of direction and high speed
- Whistle: Needed to start and stop play
- Water: Hydration is just as important for
- Towel: Helpful for comfort and can help dry hands
- Pen: Just in case the scorekeeper forgets theirs

What to Wear

- IOU Officiating Jersey: should be outermost top layer
- Black shorts or pants: Depending on the weather and your preference. Should be comfortable for you to move around in
- Officiating hat: optional attire depending on weather, an IOU-approved design of hat is encouraged to keep the sun or rain out of your eyes

Keys to Respect

- Confidence
- Transparency
- Accuracy
- Contact
- Knowledge

Confidence

- You must appear to know what you are doing
- Stand tall, keep hands out of pockets- present confidence in your demeanor
- Speak clearly and loudly, and make eye contact as much as is reasonable

Transparency

- Explain why you have made decisions if asked
- Communicate directions to players if they are positioned incorrectly on face-offs or penalty shots
- Warn players and give them directions to keep them from being penalized
- Communicate if players are about to commit a two-touch, two-line pass, or goal hanging violation

Accuracy

- If in doubt, consult the rulebook
- Keep eyes on play
- Don't let players get behind you
- Be in good enough shape to stay near the play

Contact

- The more often someone sees you over time, the more likely they are to respect you
- Consistently arrive on-time
- Stay slightly after games if you can to have more face time with players and managers
- Get to know players and managers personally

Knowledge

- The more knowledge you possess about the sport, the rulebook, and procedure, the more respect you will command
- Knowing enough to know you have made a mistake, and being comfortable admitting that, will grant you more respect

Why do you need respect?

- If players and managers respect you, games are less likely to get out of hand
- If you command respect, the game can get started and finished faster

Minimizing Bias

- Bias is inevitable- you are human
- It's important to recognize your biases so that your bias does not impact the game
- Do not try to “even up” fouls (one team will often take many more fouls than the other)
- If there is a game where you may not believe you can be impartial, you should notify the match organizers so they can find you a replacement
- Each game is a new game- try not to let previous impressions of players or teams impact your decision making

Ethical Behavior

- As a referee you represent the entire sport of oarball
- Because of this you must be a good ambassador and a good role model

Gifts

- Keep a record of any time someone attempts to give you a gift because of your status as an official
- Do not accept cash gifts from players, clubs, or parties interested in seeing a certain result of a match you are officiating
- Do not accept any gifts with a monetary value over fifty US dollars (\$50) from clubs
- If clubs wish to feed you a meal before or after a game, this is acceptable so long as the food has a value of less than fifty dollars (\$50)

Gambling

- Do not gamble on any oarball games for any reason
- Do not provide insider information to prospective gamblers
- Any time someone attempts to encourage you to gamble on a match, keep a record

Handling Hecklers

- Fans, players, and managers may be unhappy with you and heckle you, either for doing your job or for making a mistake, if they believe it hurts their team
- The best response, provided you are not in danger, is to outright ignore any heckling. If possible, “laughing it off” can help diffuse anger from hecklers as well
- If you receive any threats, any objects thrown at you, or liquids poured on you, you should eject any offenders
- If you hear any slurs or hateful language from hecklers, you should eject any offenders

Inappropriate Behavior

- While “on the clock” an official, you should never:
 - Consume intoxicants (alcohol, nicotine, etc)
 - Wear branded or political merchandise
 - Use unnecessary force
 - Make lewd or inappropriate comments
 - Remove your garments
- Do not touch players except:
 - To break up an altercation
 - To provide first aid in a medical emergency
 - Professional contact (hand-shakes, high-fives, etc)
- Do not ride in a private vehicle with players or managers from either team