

When I decided to add lacrosse to my officiating sports, I was a bit confused on what, exactly, I had to order for uniforms and accessories. There was conflicting and different information from various sources, so I've put this together based on my experience. Talk to other officials to get their input as well. This is just my guide of how to figure out the uniform thing for Boys' Lacrosse officiating.

Let's begin with some excerpts from the **2021-22 MHSAA Officials Guidebook ...**

- **Officials are expected to wear the proper attire for the sport to be officiated.** Uniform shirts should be replaced before they become worn or discolored due to age, perspiration and repeated washings. A proper uniform means quality attire properly fitted and cleaned. Pants and shorts should keep their color. **Properly-maintained uniforms and equipment influence the perceived image of the official and help to build confidence and credibility with players, coaches and spectators because the official looks the part.**
- **Officials who work on crews of two or more individuals should wear matching or coordinated uniforms. In most cases this means that all officials on the crew should wear identical uniform shirts, pants or shorts, caps and accessories.**
- The key is that regardless of the uniform selection, it must be mandated or approved by the MHSAA, it **must contain the appropriate MHSAA emblem or logo** and it must coordinate with the other member(s) of the crew.
- **Optional patches are limited to Local Approved Association and American Flags** (neither to exceed 2"x3"). All other patches and numbers shall be removed from uniforms while officiating MHSAA contests.

The **2021-22 MHSAA Officials Guidebook** specifies the uniform requirements as follows:

Boys Lacrosse – Officials shall wear a black and white striped shirt with either 1" or 2" width stripes (long or short sleeve), as long as the entire crew matches in wearing either the traditional (1") or new, wide striped (2") shirt. The uniform shirt shall have an MHSAA officials emblem worn on the left chest pocket. Black shorts (minimum 6" inseam), full-length black nylon wind pants or black football-style officiating pants with the contrasting white side stripe shall be worn as long as all members of the crew match. Officials shall wear a black cap with white piping. The socks shall be black over the ankle. Shoes shall be black.

OPTIONAL: Officials may also wear a black and white striped or solid black long sleeve jacket if all wear the same.

Accessories – Lanyards and whistles should be black. The penalty marker shall be a weighted yellow flag (15 inches x 15 inches). Gloves (if worn) shall be solid black.

Also, looking at NFHS Rule 2-5 Art 3: **"The uniform should fit properly and be clean and neat. All officials working the game are to be dressed the same."**

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.

The uniform combinations are:

shorts/shorts ...

- 1" stiped 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 ¹ , current price	Picture
<p>1" stripe, short-sleeve shirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will need a minimum of one of these shirts ... depending how often you want to do laundry. 	<p>USA100MI², CorrectCall, \$39.99</p> <p>If you are not registered with the MHSAA³ (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.</p>	
<p>1" stripe, long-sleeve shirt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will need a minimum of one of these shirts ... depending how often you want to do laundry. 	<p>USA113MI², CorrectCall, \$43.99</p> <p>If you are not registered with the MHSAA³ (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.</p>	
<p>Black shorts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>FBS170, CorrectCall, \$24.99</p>	

¹ There are various vendors to order from. Correct Call Officiating Outfitters (<https://www.cofficiating.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.

² 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.

³ We highly recommend that all GRALOA members register with the MHSAA.

GRALOA BOYS' LACROSSE UNIFORMS

Mike VanLaan's information

Item Description	Item number, vendor ¹ , current price	Picture
<p>Black pants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will need a minimum of one pair of pants ... depending how often you want to do laundry. - All black (no stripe). - Pants should have pockets. - Pants should have belt loops. - Sweat pants are highly discouraged and do not meet the professional standard. 	<p>FBS179, CorrectCall, \$41.99⁴</p>	
<p>Belt – needs to be all black. (The NFHS Rules specify 1 ¼” to 2 inches in width).</p>	<p>ACS561, CorrectCall, \$13.00 (1 ½” width) or ACS563⁵, CorrectCall, \$15.00 (1 ¾” width)</p>	
<p>Under garment items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It seems like common sense, but you DO NOT wear a long-sleeve undergarment with a short-sleeve shirt. 	<p>Any <u>all black</u> “under armour” type of tee shirt. Jock and/or spandex athletic shorts, if desired.</p>	
<p>Socks, over the ankle</p>	<p>Any all black ankle socks ... to wear with the shorts.</p>	
<p>Socks, crew or over the calf</p>	<p>Any all black socks ... to wear with the pants.</p>	
<p>Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The “lacrosse standard” is <u>all black</u> (with black laces). - Find a shoe that is comfortable to run in. - We will work on both turf and grass, so you may want a pair for turf and a pair for grass. 	<p>I happen to like New Balance shoes, so here is one example: - New Balance Field Shoe-MU950V3, OfficiallySports⁶, \$85.00</p>	

⁴ 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.

⁵ This is the belt that meets the football officiating width – 1 ¾” – criteria.

⁶ <https://www.officiallysports.com/>

GRALOA BOYS' LACROSSE UNIFORMS

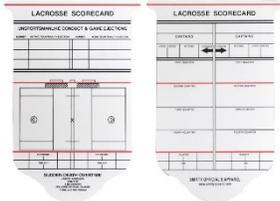
Mike VanLaan's information

Item Description	Item number, vendor ¹ , current price	Picture
<p>Jacket (for inclement weather games)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: If you wear a jacket during the game, all officials for that game must wear a jacket. - 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. 	<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 Printing⁷:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the "gold standard" ... many of our officials have this jacket ... Port Authority J900 Collective Outer Shell Jacket, \$63.50 - Burnside BU4209754 Water Resistant Hooded Windbreaker, \$29.75 - Champion CN420CO200 Packable Anorak Jacket, \$31.75 	
<p>Additional cold weather gear</p>	<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>	
<p>Whistle⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many lacrosse officials use a finger whistle, so that is shown as one example. - You can also use a whistle on a lanyard. - Fox 40 is the officiating "standard" for whistles. - It's not a bad idea to have a spare whistle that you carry. 	<p>WH-CMGF (finger whistle), OfficiallySports⁹, \$8.00</p> <p>or</p> <p>WH-CMG, OfficiallySports, \$7.00 with lanyard LN-FOX40PT, OfficiallySports, \$6.00</p>	

⁷ 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 (graloe.secretary@gmail.com) for additional details if you need them.

⁸ I prefer the CMG (cushioned mouth guard) whistle.

⁹ <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.

Item Description	Item number, vendor ¹ , current price	Picture
<p>Flags</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will need a minimum of TWO flags. For lacrosse officiating, it is not unusual to have to use two flags. - Most officials probably use the flag with the black ball (looks better when tucked in the belt). 	<p>ACS511 (specify black ball color), CorrectCall, \$5.00</p>	
<p>Game cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These reusable cards are also used for stick measurement checks. - I also carry 3"x5" cards for making any other game notes I want to keep. 	<p>ACS540, CorrectCall, \$5.00</p>	
<p>Pencil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A "bullet" pencil fits nicely in your shirt pocket. You will use this to write on your game card. 	<p>OS-PEN, OfficiallySports, \$2.00</p>	
<p>Timer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMPORTANT ... all lacrosse officials will need to have their own timer. - You will be timing 20 seconds multiple times every game. - Most timers can also be used for the 2-minute timeouts. 	<p>There are multiple options. Here are a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Model 1150, Ready-Ref¹⁰, \$79.00 (this is the one I have) - Lacrosse Referee 20/100 Second Timer, RefTimer¹¹, \$69.99 - Lacrosse 20/100 second dual referee timer, UmpAttire¹², \$74.99 	
<p>Tape measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Tape measures are typically only needed for Varsity games. We don't often use them for sub-Varsity contests. 	<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>	

¹⁰ https://ready-ref.com/store_timers/#lacrosse

¹¹ <https://reftimer.com/product/lacrosse-referee-20-100-second-timer/>

¹² <https://www.ump-attire.com/Products/LT20100/Lacrosse-20-100-Second-Dual-Referee-Timer>

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Mike VanLaan's information

Item Description	Item number, vendor ¹ , current price	Picture
Coin - There is a coin toss to begin every game. Carry something in your bag to use if you are the Referee for the game.	I like to have a silver dollar to use. There are various other coins ... your choice.	
Gear bag - You will need a gear bag to keep your "stuff" in, to take to the game, etc. - The bag should be black.	There are many possibilities. Most of the sites that sell officiating gear have various gear bags for sale as well.	

Places I've found to order from:

- Correct Call Officiating Outfitters (ccofficiating.com)
- Officially Sports (officiallysports.com)
- Purchase Officials (purchaseofficials.com)
- Honig's (honigs.com)
- Ump-Attire (ump-attire.com)
- Gerry Davis Sports (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