



ONTARIO FOOTBALL
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

EARN YOUR STRIPES

Become a Football Official

Do You Have What It Takes To Become A Football Official

As football programs throughout Canada increase, the need for competent officials is on the rise. The rewards and challenges are great. Beginning at the youth and recreational levels, many officials work their way up to high school and university games. An elite few will eventually find themselves refereeing in the professional leagues.



Personal Skills

The football official of today must have certain qualities. Acting as a positive role model for children and young adults, the individual is in a position of authority. Using this responsibility wisely is the key to becoming a good official. Encouraging sportsmanship, overseeing the safety of a game, and making split-second decisions under stress are the main duties of this respected position. The official must also be prepared to resolve conflicts, and bring a sense of fairness and calm to often chaotic situations. All this must be executed without occupying center stage. It takes a special person to fill this role.



Physical Requirements

Aside from superior judgment and personal skills, the football official must be physically fit. Quick reaction and speed are essential, as well as excellent eyesight. There is little chance for rest while officiating a football game and the referee must be prepared to endure hours of standing and running. The physical demands grow stronger as the age and competitiveness of the players increase.



How to Get Started

If the idea of officiating has sparked your interest, it is easy to get started. The O.F.O.A and Local association's will guide and train you, while providing the opportunity to learn from seasoned veterans of the officiating world. When you are ready, the association will assign you games.



Registration and Game Fees

You will be requested to register for affiliation with the local, provincial or national association. At such time, a fee is customary. This payment will cover the in-depth training, insurance and rulebooks. As you graduate into the officiating scene, you will be paid to officiate, depending on the level of play, the fee will vary per game. The only other financial criteria will be the purchase of necessary clothing and equipment.



Attire and Equipment

Regulation attire for football:

- A fitted black hat with white piping
- A collared striped shirt (both long and short sleeve)
- White knicker style pants
- Striped stirrup socks and athletic shoes (preferably cleated)
- Whistle (Fox 40)
- Flag (Sand Weighted)

Starter Packages for both sports are available through Honig's Whistle Stop Canada.
Toll Free number 1-800-560-6680



Climbing the Ladder

The usual place to start your career is with the minor and/or high school level programs. As one becomes more skilled in his knowledge of rules, mechanics, and positioning the likelihood of progressing to higher levels of ball increases greatly. Usually, an official becomes competent in these areas by attending Certification Clinics and attending his local associations meetings. Also affecting ones ability for advancement is the amount of ball an individual is able to work.



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