

CTLOA – POLICIES

1. Membership:

The following are the requirements for membership to the CTLOA.

Dues: Annual dues paid January 15.

USL Membership: Renewed annually by September 30.

Background Checks: Texas Public Sex Offender Registry

NCAA Rules Test:

- Completed Annually

Classroom/On-Field Training: Required to attend 3 of 5 classroom training classes during season and 1 on-field session or a reasonably equivalent substitute.

Arbiter: Update all required fields in the Arbiter system.

Code of Conduct: Exhibit professionalism and abide by standards of Code of Conduct and Policies (including Social Media & Uniform Policies)

Fitness: You must be in shape to meet the demands of the game, in terms of speed and endurance.

2. Uniform:

Short and Long Sleeved Shirts: One-inch vertical stripes on the body and sleeves. A black collar and black cuffs are required.

Shorts: Black shorts with 4 pockets and belt loops. A minimum 6-inch inseam is required. If compression shorts are also worn, they must be black and may not extend below the hem of the shorts.

Belt: Black. 1 – 2 inches wide. Silver belt buckle.

Undershirt: All undershirts and turtlenecks are to be solid black. Sleeves or sleeveless.

Socks: Solid black. Must cover ankle bone. Ex. ¼ Crew. (NOT: “No show” and “Crew” socks)

Shoes: All black with black laces.

Hat: Black with 1/8” piping. (Sized or Fitted)

Whistle: Black Fox 40 finger whistle (pea-less). Carry a back-up.

Penalty Flag: Gold. 2 – tucked into front of waistband.

Patches:

- US Flag – worn on left breast, with bottom approx 3/4” above pocket.
- US Lacrosse Official (HS) – worn on left shoulder, with top approx 3” below shoulder seam.

Tape Measure: 72" - small (fit in pocket)

Timer: 20 sec timer (specific to lacrosse)

Cold Weather Gear: Jacket/pants/gloves are acceptable. Pants – solid black nylon pants. Gloves – black. Jackets - Solid black. No sweats, sweatshirts or hoodies.

Equipment Bags: Black. (Bags do not go to the field, except tournaments.)

Appearance: The uniform should be neat, wrinkle free, etc... Look crisp. Facial Hair – unless you normally have a beard, or mustache – you need to be clean shaven.

3. Code of Conduct:

As officials of the sport of lacrosse, we recognize that we share the responsibility to uphold the honor of the game. As members of the CTLOA, we acknowledge, support and will follow these principles:

- Comply with the By-Laws and Policies of the CTLOA,
- Treat all stakeholders equally, with no bias for or against,
- Accept no favors or privileges which are not offered generally to the Membership,
- Engage in no activities with other stakeholders which could reasonably call into question our impartiality,
- Fulfill promptly all obligations, financial and professional, and
- Conduct ourselves in our professional and personal lives in the manner required to uphold the honor and dignity of our profession.

4. Social Media Policy:

Members of CTLOA, when interacting online, should be mindful that:

- Statements made by members of the officiating community about plays, games, or teams may be construed by fans, players, and coaches as representative of official positions or interpretations of rules or game situations.
- While the central Texas lacrosse community has traditionally been tight-knit, care should be taken that interactions between officials and players and coaches do not give the impression of bias or impropriety.

To this end:

- Officials should avoid discussing specific teams, games, standings, assignments, players, or plays involving CTLOA or SWLOA members or teams served by CTLOA or SWLOA in openly public fora such as facebook, instagram, twitter, vine, snapchat, blogs, etc.
- If discussing play situations with other officials, such as in a closed group, chat, or officiating board, officials should obfuscate the teams, players, coaches, officials and other participants involved.
- Online social interaction between officials and other members of the central Texas lacrosse community should avoid any discussion of teams, games, standings, assignments, players, or

plays involving CTLOA or SWLOA members or teams served by CTLOA or SWLOA, even if efforts are made to keep the participants anonymous.

5. Background Checks:

- Any individual listed on the Texas Public Sex Offender Registry shall not be eligible for membership in the CTLOA and shall be immediately suspended.

6. Evaluation Program

- Senior Officials will observe & evaluate Crews

Do's and Don'ts of Being Evaluated

The purpose of being evaluated is for you to improve as an official. That's a process that should never plateau or stop. Even officials working the highest level games are constantly being observed and evaluated. We want you to constantly improve your skills, knowledge and judgment, and to improve the consistency of officiating among all of our members.

DO:

- Do show up on time for your pregame, with the proper uniform and equipment.
- Do whatever you need to do to get ready to hustle and give the observer your best game. Have a snack, clear your head, have a good pregame.
- Do "check your ego at the door."
- Do your best to be coachable and to keep improving. Take what you learn and use it in the next game. Tell the rest of your crew "I'm trying to do X better" and have them watch and critique.
- Be prepared to stay after the game to meet with the observer.
- Ask questions.

DON'T:

- ⤴ Don't expect to be flattered. The observer's job is to give you a good picture of what you need to work on and what you're doing right. Most of the time, the "right" stuff is not the focus. That's just the nature of the beast.
- ⤴ Don't get down in the dumps if you hear criticism. We try to make this a positive learning experience but your time is valuable and you won't be spending a lot of time listening to how well you make the offsides signal.
- ⤴ Don't deflect the observations with rationalizations or explanations. What the observer is saying is what he observed – which is how it looks to the coaches and fans.
- ⤴ Don't think that there's any official who can't improve.

7. Group Observation Program:

Organized/run by senior official

Mid- to high-level games

Observing group will sit together in the stands

Designed to primarily benefit the observing group (6 – 10 members)

Games identified in advance with opportunity to “sign-up” for observing group

Format:

Senior observer/commentator will try to keep a running commentary and moderate a dialogue about the officiating. The purpose of having a high-level official in the crew is to focus on what he does right – why he is where he is, why he is making a call or not, how he handles game situations, what choices or options he had and how he handled them. That doesn't mean the other members of the crew get a free pass – if there's something to point out that would be instructive, then we'll talk about that. The point isn't to evaluate the crew, but rather to give younger and mid-level officials a chance to learn what separates the better officials.

8. Continuing Education:

General Membership Training

- ⤴ Attend 3 out of 5 Monthly Membership Meetings (Oct. - Mar.)
- ⤴ Attend 1 On-Field Training (Fall)
- ⤴ NCAA Rules Test

Freshmen & Sophomore Training (1st & 2nd Year Officials)

- ⤴ Recommended – 8 Classroom Meetings (Nov. - Feb.)
- ⤴ Additional Field Training
- ⤴ NCAA Rules Test

Jr. Membership Training

- Multiple Day Clinic (combined classroom/field training)
- Additional Field Training
- Youth Rules Test

9. Mentoring Program:

Senior officials to serve as mentors to newer officials.

- ⤴ Potential for additional evaluation/observation & feedback on performance
- ⤴ Leadership to other officials
- ⤴ Resource for officials being mentored

10. Game Assignment Expectations:

January 1 Deadlines:

- ⤴ Update all fields in Arbiter, including profile photo
- ⤴ Check Box - Ready to be Assigned
- ⤴ Set blocks at least one month out
 - **Remember – these also apply to youth league assignments, so do not forget to put blocks on Sundays.*
- ⤴ Update blocks every two weeks

General Requirements:

- ⤴ check Arbiter routinely during the season (upon receipt of any Arbiter email, and at least every few days)
- ⤴ accept Assignments asap upon receipt of it
- ⤴ decline if you must, but if your blocks are up to date this should not be necessary except on rare instances
- ⤴ if you have an injury that impairs your ability to officiate then immediate notify the assignor

Game Responsibilities:

- ⤴ Several days before a game, the U and FJ should be contacting the R to confirm attire and meeting time/location for pregame.
 - Email vouchers to the R for submission to the Home team.
- ⤴ Several days before the game, the R should be communicating with the crew to decide attire and pregame meeting.
 - The R has final word on attire and the crew must match.
- ⤴ Several days before the game, the R should be communicating with the coaches to apprise them of the crew assignments and to the home team to submit vouchers for payment of game fees.
- ⤴ The R must promptly fill out a game report in Arbiter. Reports should be completed within 48 hours of completion of game.