

Becoming A BBOWS High School Field Hockey Official

Thanks for your interest in finding out what it takes to become a certified high school field hockey official for BBOWS. Please check the BBOWS website at www.bbows.org. You can also go to www.usfieldhockey.com/umpiring/become-an-umpire.php for additional information.

What is BBOWS?

The **B**altimore **B**oard of **O**fficials for **W**omen's **S**ports is a service organization providing the most desirable sports officiating services to girl's and women's sports. Our Board recruits, trains, and provides continuing education for people interested in becoming an official.

The members of the Baltimore Board strive to provide the leadership appropriate in terms of ethical conduct and consistency with the highest level of performance and achievement of the athletes involved.

In general what times are games scheduled?

High School and middle school games are scheduled on weekdays at starting times ranging from 3:30PM up to 6PM. Officials need to arrive at the game site approximately 30 minutes prior to game time and dressed and on the field 15 minutes before game time. There are very few high school games played on Saturday during the season. Maryland Youth Field Hockey play games on Sunday afternoons from 1 PM–5PM.

What schools does BBOWS provide officials for?

The following school systems are serviced:

- Baltimore County Public (MPSSAA)
- IAAM's Athletic Conference (private and parochial schools)
- Other various independent middle and high Schools
- Maryland Youth Field Hockey

The season runs from September to November.

What is the registration fee to become a BBOWS field hockey official?

The total registration fee is \$175.00 for new officials. This covers the cost of the training class, annual BBOWS sport specific season registration fee, MPSSAA sports insurance coverage, high school federation rules and casebook. There is also a requirement to attend several field hockey meetings as well as the annual BBOWS meeting held in June.

What type of instructional training is provided for officiating?

There are instructors who provide classroom and field training. Training classes are held in August from 4:00 to 6:00 at a local high school. There are organized play dates that provide non-paid officiating opportunities prior to the start of the season. The rules for high school are governed by NFHS (National

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Federation of State High School Associations). The NFHS rules test must be taken and completed with a passing grade. A training fee is associated and must be paid prior to the first class.

What are physical demands associated with the sport?

Officiating is physically demanding. You must be able to jog, sprint, change direction for 60 minutes. As the players' ages and skill levels increase, the speed of competition becomes more challenging. Your concentration level and ability to anticipate play must increase as well.

What are the uniform/equipment requirements and their associated costs?

The uniform consists of:

- ✓ Black kilt for woman, black shorts for men (coach length)
- ✓ Official field hockey shirt (Colored Polo Shirt)
- ✓ Predominately black field shoes
- ✓ Black Fox 40/Mini Fox worn with a black lanyard
- ✓ Black visor
- ✓ Black long sleeve turtle neck(cold weather)
- ✓ Black jacket and long black pants (cold/rain gear)

The associated costs for this uniform and equipment are **generally less than \$100** if you have shoes.

What are the game fees for officials?

In general , two officials working together on a Varsity game each earn \$62-\$65 per game. Two officials working together on a Junior Varsity (JV) level game each earn \$52 - \$55 per game. Youth fees range from \$45 - \$60 per game.

How am I assigned games?

BBOWS uses an assigner for each sport. Officials do not get assigned by an individual school or school system. Your games are scheduled using a web-site (www.arbitersports.com) and sent by e-mail. Factors influencing assignments are availability, attitude, experience, aptitude, meeting attendance, and dependability.

Where do I buy my uniform?

You can purchase BBOWS whistles and jackets from the instructors. Official shirts can be purchased directly from USA Field Hockey or matching colored polo shirts can be bought at local stores. Black field shoes can be purchased at any sporting goods store. You can also go online to the following websites.

www.usfieldhockey.com/umpiring/products/php

www.theofficialschoice.com

www.purchaseofficials.com

www.sos-sports.net