

EFOA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Training and current officiating rules?

What uniforms do officials wear? How can I get uniforms? Is there a uniform loaner program?

How much are the dues and when are they collected?

How will I get paid?

I've been a certified football official in another area. How will my qualifications transfer?

I'm an official returning to the EFOA. Do I keep my prior qualifications?

Are officials considered employees of the EFOA, WOA or WIAA?

How are games scheduled?

What happens if I miss an assigned contest?

What if I get injured while officiating a game?

What happens if there is a serious conflict involving spectators?

EFOA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following provides additional information regarding the policies, procedures, and processes of the EFOA. All officials are encouraged to review the WIAA/WOA procedures and policies.

Finally, EFOA is committed to following the WIAA/WOA state approved mechanics as published in the WOA Official's Manual. All members are expected to follow the manual.

Training and current officiating rules?

At the beginning of the season, each official will receive a printed copy of the current year's NFHS Football Rules Book and Case Book. In addition, the most up-to-date version of the WOA's Football Officiating Mechanics Illustrated is available electronically on the Arbiter site.

New officials receive thorough training prior to the start of the season including classroom and on field sessions.

Ongoing training for professional development is a regular part of all EFOA membership meetings.

What uniforms do officials wear? How can I get uniforms? Is there a uniform loaner program?

Officials working WIAA contests are required to wear uniforms outlined in the WOA Mechanics Illustrated. This document can be found in Arbiter, on the WOA Central Hub Football page.

- Varsity level game uniforms (shirt and pant type) shall be determined by the Referee using the WOA guidelines. Referees can mandate the use of optional equipment such as radio during varsity games.
- The Referee may require the crew to wear pants or shorts and or L/S or S/S shirts. The Referee must contact the crew prior to all contests and advise them as to the expected uniform.
- All officials working contests at any level should represent the EFOA in a professional manner – uniforms clean and in good condition.

The EFOA does not have a formal uniform loaner program, the EFOA members are encouraged to donate uniform items that they no longer use or have outgrown them.

How much are the dues and when are they collected?

- All dues are collected through Arbiter. This includes any required WIAA, WOA, NASO and Associations dues.
- The Arbiter will deduct all required dues from the members/official's pay. Dues are only deducted once an official has earned enough game fees to cover them.
- The WOA dues are chargeable regardless of whether the official is a member of any other sports officiating association.
- Membership will be notified of the current dues rates by Arbiter email or text and business meeting or previous year-end meeting. Members desiring current dues information should contact the Treasurer.
- Members not officiating on the field will be contacted by the treasurer to determine how to pay their dues.
- New official's dues will be deducted by Arbiter after completion of a background check as administered through the Arbiter.
- During the season members who resign will not receive any refunds.

How will I get paid?

- School games fees will be deposited into a members Arbiter account by the WIAA (see the WIAA or WOA procedures for game fee payments or contact the treasurer for more information). Current game fees can be found in Arbiter, on the WOA Central Hub Football page.
- Other contests, such as CYFF, are paid out by the EFOA approximately monthly, once they are collected from the clubs.
- Membership will be able to withdraw any earned game fees payments once the fees are deposited in their Arbiter account.
 - After all dues deductions.
 - Members must enroll in Arbiter pay.
 - Distribution of funds is based on the current arbiter agreement.

I've been a certified football official in another area. How will my qualifications transfer?

- An official transferring in from another association operating under the guidelines of the NFHS shall be required to submit information from the assigning secretary of his/her old association. This communication should certify the number of years the official was with that association and the level at which he/she worked as well as the number of varsity level games and total games that the official has worked.
- If the transferring official's letter indicates he/she has varsity experience, the training committee will evaluate the official's skill levels. The training committee will recommend an intermediate or varsity level.
- Transferring officials without varsity experience will be evaluated by the training committee. The training committee will recommend an apprentice or intermediate level.
- The official must complete the WIAA/ WOA requirements each season to become a certified official

I'm an official returning to the EFOA. Do I keep my prior qualifications?

- An official who returns to work with EFOA after an absence of one year or less may return to their last level as if they had not left.
- An official who returns to work with EFOA after an absence of more than one year will be evaluated by the training committee.
- The official must complete the WIAA/WOA requirements each season to become a certified official.

Are officials considered employees of the EFOA, WOA or WIAA?

Upon becoming a member of EFOA, you provide services as an Amateur sports official as defined by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 50.04.248. As such, you are not considered an employee of the EFOA, school districts or youth leagues for which you perform officiating functions.

How are games scheduled?

Refer to the Game Assignments guidance document.

What happens if I miss an assigned contest?

When an official accepts a game assignment, he/she agrees to officiate the games assigned. As a part of that acceptance, the official agrees to arrive as follows:

- For youth league games and middle school games, officials should be onsite, dressed and ready to work a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the game start.
- For non-varsity high school games, officials should be onsite, dressed and ready to work a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the game start.

- For varsity games officials should be onsite, dressed and ready to work a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the game start. The referee may designate an earlier meeting time.

Officials who do not show up for a game assignment will forfeit their total compensation for that game. Additionally, they will be fined an additional game fee for each game they did not show up for. They may appeal this to the board if there are extenuating circumstances.

If an official does not officiate an assigned game(s) more than once per season without extenuating circumstances approved by the board, disciplinary actions will be taken by the board up to and including termination of services.

If an official knows in advance that they are unable to make an assignment, it is their responsibility to notify the Assigning Secretary. This notification must be given with enough time for the Assigning Secretary to find a replacement.

If the official is unable to reach the Assigning Secretary by phone or text, he should try the Secretary and if necessary, the President.

Voice mail, e-mail, and leaving messages with others is not considered making proper notification. Only speaking or texting directly with the Assigning Secretary or alternate is acceptable.

What if I get injured while officiating a game?

All registered officials are covered for injuries occurring during a WIAA/WOA member High School, Junior High or Middle School contest through the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. If an Association or Board elects to do so and pays the appropriate fee to the WIAA, coverage can be extended to non-WIAA Middle Schools/Junior Highs. Additionally, all WOA Certified Officials are covered under the NASO agreement for all contests officiated at any level.

An official who is injured and incapable of officiating a contest at a high degree of performance should remove themselves from the assignment. The referee has the final authority to remove an obviously injured official from the contest

In case of injury, contact the WOA Central Hub at:

<https://woa.arbitersports.com/front/104759/Site/Officials/Insurance>

What happens if there is a serious conflict involving spectators?

Each member of the EFOA is responsible for his or her own personal safety and to be aware of his or her surroundings when arriving to and exiting from a football game location.

It is recommended the Referee contact the crew (officials assigned to officiate the game) regarding arrival time, location to park and assuming the field together. No EFOA member should arrive to or exit a game alone.

The Referee should also contact game management before the event, or upon arrival at the event, to determine the safety dynamics at the game site (examples include but are not limited to rivalry games, playoff games, potential issues with fans, parent conflicts, player special needs or other circumstances the crew should be aware of for their personal safety during the event).

The Referee and crew should determine, before taking the field, a safety location to shelter in place (examples would be the officials' locker room or dressing room) and an evacuation route.

The Referee and crew should determine with game management who has a cell phone or other method of communication, and is responsible for summoning police, fire or medical assistance. Members are expected not to provoke or confront angry participants after the event, but to move to an area of safety, or summon police if they feel physically threatened.