

# The Other Side of the Coin

## The Uniform

### OUR UNIFORM

In this article I will address our uniform. It is a critical piece for all referees, no matter your level as it is the first impression we give when we walk into the gym. I often used the parallel of a lawyer going to court. What would the perception be by the judge or jury if that lawyer's suit was not clean or pressed, if his/her pants weren't hemmed or his/her disheveled shirt was hanging out of his/her pants? What if his or her hair wasn't combed?

Over my years of refereeing, I have seen it all and I think that as a result of that, our uniform has become one of my pet peeves. Those of you who know me, recognize how true that is! You must also realize that if you are looking to upgrade, not only does the evaluator look to your refereeing skills, they also look at the complete package of the referee, of which your uniform is a huge component.

Temporarily, we have no written guidelines for our uniform, as our Volleyball Canada Policy Document is being redone. That can be expected shortly and will be posted on the VC website. Meanwhile, I encourage you to read through our requirements and further suggestions below.

Our uniform includes:

Essential items (which can be purchased from <http://store.volleyball.ca/collections/frontpage> )

- Referee shirt: Please remember that the collar of our shirt is white - not grey! The uniform required that your shirt be tucked into your pants. (The only exception is for our female referees that are pregnant.)
- Referee Pants: Pants must be hemmed properly, which means with a needle and thread - not with safety pins!
- Belt: Black or Navy
- White shoes - or predominantly white and they must be clean.
- White socks

Should you be a very new official, there are exceptions for you as you begin: If you were certified between Sep 1 - Apr 30, 30 days from completion of requirements to at minimum invest in the shirt.

The standard VC authorized uniform mandatory is required at the start of the next season.

For those certified between May 1 - Aug 31, you have that 4 month time period added to the one year grace for the full uniform requirement.

Additional items you must have with you

- A current rule book and the Volleyball Canada Referee Guidelines (available online at <http://www.volleyball.ca/content/officials-resources> )
- Whistle with Lanyard
- Sanction Cards
- Tossing Coin
- Badge - preferably attached to your shirt with a magnet such as one shown and can be purchased at most trophy shops. In whatever way you attach your badge, the fastener should not be seen, such as a safety pin.
- Wristwatch - not a cell phone and not a stopwatch in your pocket. Cellphones do not go to the stand with a referee!

Other useful accessories:

- Jacket: Presently, we have two different jackets available to us in Alberta. The navy fleece jacket from Volleyball Canada or the Alberta Volleyball one. Our jacket is only to be worn prematch and never on the stand.
- Navy long sleeved shirt for cold days under the (From our FAQ's Question 31: Is it permissible to wear a long-sleeved shirt underneath the Volleyball Canada uniform shirt when the gym is too cold? Yes. It is permissible provided that the long-sleeved shirt is navy in colour.) This long sleeved option is not to be worn for CIS or CCAA matches.
- Net Chain
- Ball Pressure Gauge
- Ball Pump
- Line judge flags

Until the next toss of the coin.