



To Ohio High School Water Polo Referees:

OWPRA's Board Members realize the community of water polo people in Ohio is small and relationships among coaches, players, players' parents and referees are often casual. However, referees need to set themselves apart by maintaining a professional appearance and demeanor. Below is a list of guidelines for maintaining professionalism:

### **Game apparel**

- ☺ Wear an all white uniform. It is always a good rule of thumb to have CLEAN, pressed (ironed) attire with your shirt tucked in. If possible, you should wear a white polo shirt embroidered with the OWPRA logo. Shoes, in particular, should be new (or newer) and CLEAN; old, dirty, tattered shoes detract from your appearance. Looking the part can be as important as playing the part when dealing with the perceptions of those watching.

### **Suggestions for appearing impartial**

- ☺ Talking with coaches:
  - Split your time equally before and during games, especially in view of the public. If you talk to the coach of one team, talk to the other coach.
  - Don't give coaching advice.
- ☺ Talking with your partner:
  - Appear serious during conversations. Coaches, parents, players and fans may interpret laughing and certain hand gestures negatively.
  - Those within earshot may misinterpret what you are discussing. Make sure your conversation is private if what you are saying might be misinterpreted by a player, player's parent or coach.
- ☺ Talking with the desk:
  - Ensure that everyone watching knows you and the desk are on the same page. Speak with the desk during breaks as much as possible without overwhelming them. The desk is often staffed by coaches, players' parents and/or players that will notice your extra effort. Catching a mistake and/or educating the desk workers early can save a lot of time and effort later in the game.
- ☺ Talking with players:
  - Don't fraternize with your old team if you were previously a coach or with your old teammates if you were previously a player.
  - Don't give playing advice.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting OWPRA's mission.