



## President's Message:

It is with great pride that our OLOA membership, today, begins another year in services to the 42 boys high school programs in Oregon. As you start your individual seasons on the field, I'd ask that you focus on your personal branding, as a servant-leader and skilled professional. "For those who are given great responsibilities, great results are the expectation." Our work begins and ends in service to our fellow crew members. The game we share with student athletes and coaches is predicated on excellent communication and fellowship/followship within the crew. Act as an advocate and liaison to the game of lacrosse – be solution-focused, accurate, savvy, and resolute, yet always approachable. Be an official who others love to serve with – be a remarkable crew member. See you all on the field soon! -Hoff

## Game Bag & In-Season Preparation Recommendations:

- **Game Bag Essentials:** Whistle, Coin, Pencil, Timer, 2 Flags, Scorecard, Tape Measure, Water Bottle
- **Game Bag Extras:** Whistle, Coin, Pencil, Battery for Timer, Flag, Scorecard, Lip Balm, Gloves
- **In Your Car:** Extra Undershirts (SS & LS), Towel, Long Pants, Socks, Hat, and Post Game Clothes (dry) for those rainy nights!
- **Uniform (Required):** SS or LS Stripes (R will make the determination); Black Shorts, Black Socks (ankle high), Black Shoes, Black Hat and OLOA waterproof windbreaker.
- **Extra Ideas:** Zip Lock Bag Everything to keep dry items dry and wet items separated from items you want to keep dry

## Game Assignor's Corner

**Review OLOA Schedule Daily:** For our incoming officials and as a reminder to our veterans...make it a practice to review your OLOA schedule daily for any updates to your assigned games, see new assignments and possible changes to your crew. It is vital that you keep yourself informed and your assignor expects your timely review and acceptance to your game schedule. Don't be the guy who does not accept/decline an upcoming game in a timely manner! Remember, more games on Saturday and Sunday this season; keep your eyes out for assignments.

**Set & Update Your Scheule Blocks!** Continue to update your blocks throughout the season to help your assignor know your availability.  
Assignors: Portland/Metro: Don Huber; Salem South: Tom Hoffert; High Desert: Tom Johnson

## High Desert Region Focus: (Tom Johnson – Region VP)

- Welcome new officials! **Max Tague** and **Karlye Kishpaugh**.
- **Region Notes:** North Hwy 97 will have traffic stops due to construction. Bend High School Lacrosse will be playing their games at Caldera High School this season. Please be aware of Caldera field marking (far side hash mark at 30-35). Make sure you alert coaches, players and officiating crew.

## "R" Reminder

- Communicate via email to your crew 48 hours before game to provide meeting time, location and expected uniform for the game(s).

## Rules Updates/Links: (Keep this and refer to it often this season...and beyond!)

- Links to Rule changes and interpretation PDF files: <https://www.usalacrosse.com/boys-and-mens-rules>
- Over and Back: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiYkg2YP8LI>
- Ten-man ride: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiYkg2YP8LI>

## A Few Words About Professional Communication

One of the skills held by all great officials is that of communication

- Comprehensive knowledge of the rules and sound judgment lack power without the ability to communicate well.
- Please keep in mind that most of what we say happens without words.
- How we present and conduct ourselves will communicate a lot without our ever articulating a word.
- So, look sharp, act sharp and be sharp.
- Be mindful of the appearance of bias in how you interact with coaches. (I suggest that you save your hugs for John Chessar!)

Communication with coaches

- Successful communication with coaches often makes the difference between a well- managed contest and a flag-fest.
- Briefly informing the coach of the call, and when necessary, why we made the call that we did eliminates misunderstandings and helps the coach to teach his players.
- However, communication with the coach is not an invitation to deliberate. We should always respect the coach and listen when he provides additional information.
- Our job is to inform, not to convince.

Coaches are invested and passionate

- We must remain as dispassionate judges with the paramount goals of safety and fairness.
- Coaches will disagree with our judgment but should not be disagreeable.
- Use the “ladder” when needed to re-establish boundaries.
- First, start with your voice to specifically articulate the boundary. This is not a stop sign, i.e., not a tool to totally cut off communication, but that it is time to move on.
- Second rung on the ladder is a Conduct Foul – preferably when the team is in possession so that it is only a turnover, but don’t be afraid to throw the flag and assess the technical foul.
- The next rung is an unsportsmanlike conduct foul.
- The last rung is ejection.
- The circumstances will dictate whether you need the ladder, or whether you need to start on higher rung on the ladder.
- Our failure to use these tools will only make it worse as the season progresses.

Take care of game control, your brothers and have the courage to use these tools to address problems early in the season.

This is shaping up to be the best season of lacrosse. I look forward to seeing you all on the field. –*Mark Monson (OLOA Board Member-PDX)*

**More Opportunities to Officiate Games: Sign Up Today!**

**Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational**

*powered by Thump Lacrosse*

May 4-5, Sisters, Oregon

Sign Up on OLOA Home Page; Contact [Chris Davis](#) for more information.