



TASO

Softball Division

Uniform Policy



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Are you **Dressed for Success?**

The appearance of our officials reflects the image and professionalism of TASO Softball and significantly influences how we are perceived by our clients; the coaches, student-athletes, administrators, and fans throughout the State of Texas. TASO Softball's intent is to maintain a uniform policy that presents a professional image and complies with the standards established by TASO and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

This policy outlines the standards for uniforms and personal appearance for TASO Softball Officials. These standards are designed to promote professionalism, safety, brand consistency, and a respectful work environment.





TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Revised 1/25/2026

Officials are required to wear the designated TASO Softball uniform and approved accessories appropriate to their assigned role or position on the field. Uniform components may include, but are not limited to, shirts, pants, jackets, hats, and required protective equipment, as detailed in the sections that follow.

Before each season and periodically through the season, officials should check their uniforms to ensure the following:

- Your uniform shirts and pants are not faded, worn or discolored.
- Your pants are not showing signs of excess fraying, wear or damage.
- Your uniforms still fit properly and can be worn as designed.
- Uniforms must always be clean, neat, and in good condition. Officials are responsible for ensuring their uniform is free of stains, tears, and excessive wear.
- Any accessories worn with the uniform, such as belts, shoes, or others defined in this presentation must meet this policy and complement the uniform's professional appearance.
- Officials are expected to maintain a high standard of personal grooming while in uniform. Hair, facial hair, and overall appearance should be neat, well-kept, and consistent with TASO Standards, always reflecting positively on the organization.

All officials on the field shall be dressed in the same uniform configuration and color unless exceptions are allowed in this policy.



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Umpire Shirts:

Primary Shirt:

Powder Blue with White and Navy trim.

- Short Sleeve
- No logo.
- Pocket Optional (all shirts)



Options:

- USA Flag On the left sleeve, center on the seam, 2 inches down on the Shirt Sleeve.
- The Texas Way pin, suggested to be worn on the shirt collar, RH Side.
 - It is not recommended to wear a pin in your hat. This can result in injury.

Optional Shirts

- **Colors:**
 - Navy, Bright Blue and panel options are available.
 - Long sleeve shirts may be worn for inclement weather and personal protection from the elements.
 - Pink - While not specifically included, this would be permitted for special events as long as all officials on the field match.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Umpire Shirts:



Powder Blue



Navy Blue



Midnight Navy & Bright Blue



Pink

Long Sleeve Options are available for all designs

Undershirts:

If worn, undershirts should be short sleeved when wearing a short sleeve shirt.

- White undershirts are required with the Powder blue shirts.
- Navy or Black with undershirts may be worn with Navy & Bright Blue shirts.

All officials on the field shall be dressed in the same uniform configuration and color unless exceptions are allowed in this policy.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Umpire Pants

Primary Pants:



Per the NFHS Rule 10-4-2: Umpires have the option of wearing heather gray, charcoal gray, or navy-blue slacks through the 2026 softball season. Effective January 1, 2027, heather gray slacks will no longer be permitted as part of the umpire's uniform.



- Effective with the 2025/2026 season, Charcoal gray pants are required for all TASO officials participating in play-off and post-season assignments.
- Heather Gray pants may be worn during the 2025/2026 regular season games, if all officials on the field are dressed in the same uniform configuration and colors.
- Flat Front are recommended in both Charcoal Gray and Navy Blue.
 - This applies to both plate style and base pants.



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Umpire Caps:

The navy-blue cap with the All White TASO logo is mandatory for use in all TASO scheduled UIL contests including the UIL and TAPPS.

- Caps may be constructed of wool or mesh material.
- 4 Stitch caps are recommended for plate use with masks.
- 6 or 8 stitch are acceptable for base umpires.



OPTION: TASO member can add a small US Flag to the left-hand side of the cap near the intersection of the Bill and Cap Body. Flag must be purchased from an Approved TASO Vendor to insure uniformity.

Cap Notes:

- Caps should never be worn backwards.
- Blank caps are not in the official policy. (See Optional Equipment)
- TASO Caps are NOT to be worn during Non-TASO assignments, Unless Assignment is through an Approved TASO Assignor.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Jackets

- The approved TASO Softball jacket is the Navy blue with single powder blue shoulder stripes, accompanied by two white stripes.
 - No logo should be applied to the jacket.
 - Pullover or zip-up styles are acceptable.
 - Short Sleeve (Optional)
- Options for inclement weather conditions.
 - Additional sweatshirts, thermal gear and undershirts should be worn underneath the TASO jacket whenever necessary.
 - It is recommended that all officials on the field match whenever possible.
 - Exceptions can be made in extreme cold or wet weather.

STAY WARM AND SAFE ON THE FIELD AT ALL TIMES.



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Equipment & Protective Gear:

It is recommended that you wear all protective gear as designed for Softball. Always keep Safety First.

Umpire Masks and Helmets:



Masks are required to officiate behind the plate.

- 10-4-1: Umpires working the plate in fast pitch shall wear a throat protector that is part of or attached to the mask and extends far enough to adequately protect the throat.
- Masks should be adjusted to fit firm while still being able to remove with one hand.
- Check your padding and straps prior to each season.



A hockey-style helmet / mask combination may be worn.

- With the use of the hockey mask, the wearing of the cap is required to the game and up to the first pitch, and after the end of the game.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Safety Gear:

Revised 1/25/2026

Let's face it, getting hit behind the plate is part of the job. It's going to happen. The best umpires plan to work the whole season, not just the next pitch. It's not about toughness; it's about demonstrating a commitment to officiating excellence and professionalism.



Chest Protector:

- Protects Against Injury
- Absorbs impact from foul tips, wild pitches, and deflections
- Improves pitch tracking and consistency of your strike zone
- Reduces flinching and hesitation
- Demonstrates preparation and commitment to officiating excellence.

Shin Guards:

- Shields shins, knees, and lower legs from foul balls and deflections
- Prevents hesitation when tracking low pitches and balls in the dirt
- Encourages a stable stance and balanced movement
- Helps maintain proper positioning for plays at the plate



Footwear:

- Shoes should be all Black with black laces.
- White manufacturer logos or small patterns are acceptable.
- The plate shoes should have hard composite or steel toes and solid instep cover for maximum protection.
- All shoes should be clean and polished prior to every game.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Equipment & Accessories:



Belt: Black Leather, suggested 1.5" to 1.75" width with a silver buckle.

- Belts should be kept clean and polished prior to every game.

Socks: Black or Navy-blue are required.

- Clean, dry socks should always be available. Keep extra handy in the case of rain, or long days at the ball park.

Ball Bags: Navy blue. Mandatory and only worn by the plate umpire.

- One or two bags may be worn.
- Black Ball Bags may be used with Pink or Black Shirt, if worn.

Ball Bag Tools:

- Indicator (two are recommended)
- Plate Brush
- Line-Up Card holder w/ 2 x pen or pencil
- Watch or time piece (kept in ball bag)



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Equipment & Accessories:

Base Umpires Recommended Accessories:

- Indicator, Heavy Duty Stainless steel is recommended.
 - Displays 3 balls, 2 strikes, 2 outs, and 9 innings
- Plate Brush (or in this case the base and pitching rubber brush)
- Pocket notebook and pencil or pen
- Timepiece, recommended to be kept in the pocket.



Sunglasses:

- If necessary, sunglasses should be plain black, non-mirrored.

Cup (protective):

- All umpires shall wear a protective cup or similar protection when working behind the plate.

Jewelry:

- If worn, jewelry should be kept in moderation and not distracting.
- Exceptions for any type of medical-alert bracelets and necklaces.

TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Noted Exceptions to this Policy:

- Officials may wear short or long sleeve shirts and can be mixed as long as the color matches
- If weather dictates that a long sleeve tee shirt or sweatshirts are worn with short sleeve shirts, they must match the color of the umpire shirt
- Not all officials are required to wear a jacket or match style

Optional Equipment

Optional equipment consists of items that are necessary for the officials to protect themselves from the cold or excessive exposure to sunlight. What does this mean?

If officiating in cold weather wear what you need to stay warm. Likewise, if the temperatures and sun exposure is an issue, officials should utilize items to protect their exposed skin using sunscreen, long sleeve shirts, neck gaiters and arm sleeves

Note:

Arm sleeves and gaiters should consist of solid colors including skin tone, black, navy or powder blue only.





TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Optional Equipment

As an additional option for protection from over-exposure to the sun, TASO Softball has approved the use of the Navy Bucket Style Hat.

- Base Umpires ONLY.
- The Bucket Hat is only allowed during day games where sun exposure is an issue.
- The TASO logo must be displayed on the hat.



You are now Dressed for Success!
Perform with Confidence!



TASO Softball Division Uniform Policy

Uniform Briefs:

- Arrive at the field looking like a **“true crew”** wearing your matching TASO polos. Shop with our TASO approved vendors to order for yourself or your chapter
- Only approved TASO Vendors are permitted to market the TASO logo on uniform, game-ready and casual wear products. A list of authorized vendors is available on the TASO website at [Vendors | Texas Association of Sports Officials](https://www.tasosoftball.com/Vendors-Texas-Association-of-Sports-Officials)
- For TASO branded casual wear, back-packs and hats, visit the TASO Threads store which is open periodically during the year. Watch “The Officials’ Time Out” publication for availability throughout the year.
- To subscribe to the Officials’ Time Out publication, click here: multibriefs.com/optin.php?taso
- All pictures, comments and depictions of products or equipment in this presentation are for demonstration or example purposes and should not be considered an endorsement for any product, manufacturer or vendor.



TASO Softball 2025 – 2026