

What you need to know about FCOCP

What is the aim of the FCOCP?

- 1) To standardize methods of officiating amateur football systems.
- 2) To standardize rule interpretation and application across Canada.
- 3) To provide participants in the program with the incentive to progress
- 4) To provide participants in the program national recognition for their accomplishments.
- 5) To aid in improving the confidence of participants.
- 6) To improve the image of the Football Official in the eyes of the athlete, the coach, the spectator, the sports administrator and among the officials themselves.

How are the FCOCP levels obtained?

Level 1

New officials must attend and participate in all aspect of the clinic. A take home exam must be successfully completed. An individual can obtain Level 1 and 2 in one year if ability is shown.

Level 2

Official must be a minimum of 16 years old. Must complete both theory and on field portions of the program. Certification requires a mark of 75% on the FCOCP written exam (written at the clinic) and passing of the practical evaluation on both sideline and umpire positions.

Level 3

Must be fully certified at Level 2 and officiate at that level for at least one year before attending the Level 3 clinic for certification. Preparation for the Referee and Umpire positions (Umpire and Back Umpire) in a 5 official system. The official must obtain a minimum of 80% on a CFCOP written examination (written at the clinic). The official must pass a practical evaluation and be judged capable of handling any position in minor and High School football and the sideline in a 5 – official system. An official must officiate for at least 1 year at Level 3 before qualifying for attendance at a Level 4 clinic.

Level 4

Attendance at Level 4 is by invitation only. The local association has the responsibility to decide which officials are eligible to attend the Level 4 clinic.

The level 4 clinic is designed to prepare officials for assignment to any position in CIS or CJFL football. The candidate must attend and fully participate in all sessions of the clinic. A minimum score of 80% must be achieved on the written exam. Must pass the practical evaluation conducted by a qualified FCOCP evaluator, and be judged capable of officiating in any one of the positions at this Level.

All Level 4 certification must be verified by an OTC member, prior to submission to Football Canada

What happens if a candidate fails to achieve the minimum grade to be certified at a level?

A - The candidate **must attend** another clinic of the **same level**, in the **next year**.

Could an Uncertified official work higher levels within his own association?

A - It is possible if the association feels the official is capable. Certification will not be completed until the official passes both the written and practical evaluation.

What happens if an official does not work at a certified level?

A - An official not working for two (2) consecutive years at a certified level is to be dropped a level of certification.

What positions are you certified at?

A - In Level 2 to Level 4, each official must have a successful On Field Evaluation for each position the official is to be certified at, NOT merely one ON FIELD EVALUATION to cover all positions.

Do you need to retake the theory portion each time you want certification at a position at a level?

A - NO, one successful Theory portion for each level is all that is necessary and covers all positions

What recognition does an official receive upon completing the Theory portions?

A - The President of the local OFA will issue a letter recognizing completion of the theory section.

What happens to an official no longer capable of working higher levels?

A - Older officials who are no longer able to officiate at a certain level may be certified at a lower level in line with their capability at the time.

What if an official is inactive in officiating for one season?

A - The official must attend a clinic and pass both the Theory and Practical Evaluation to be recertified at the level at which the official was previously active. If the official does not meet the standards for that level, the official will be certified at a lower level in which the official is successful in meeting the required standard.

How is Certification Maintained?

A – To maintain an official's current level of certification, the official **MUST** attend a Rules Clinic annually and successfully pass the exam with a score of 75%

What if you transfer to another OFA?

A - The official will obtain a transfer form from the current association. The form signed by the President of the OFA will provide the new OFA information background which will be useful as an introduction for the transferee. After receipt of the form, the official will be recertified by the new association. Until the new association has had an opportunity to assess the official's capability, it is possible the official will not be assigned the same type of game, or position as in the previous associations