

IOBG Uniform Protocol

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Dear Past Commodores, Current Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen. Over the years we have heard the many questions regarding correct Uniform Protocol for Past Commodores as well as current Bridge Officers. Recently these inquiries have turned to discussion, confusion and sometime complaints. By seeking advice and input from some of my well-known and respected Past Commodores it was suggested that I write an article to help serve as a guide to what is correct and appropriate. Whether you are a Formal Club or an Informal Club, a Club of 1,000+ members or a smaller club, the Correct Uniform Protocol is actually a clearly defined one, but not always well accessible. Below is an abbreviated reference guide taken from the IOBG Handbook and the Official Yachting Customs and Courtesies Handbook that includes Uniform, Insignia, Flag and Burgee Protocol.

For a complete **updated** guide please refer to the IOBG Policy and Procedures Manual at ...
http://www.iobg.org/PolicyManual/PolicyManual_September18_2019.pdf

Insignia

*The official emblem of the International Order of the Blue Gavel is a rectangular red flag, upon which is superimposed a ship's wheel in white, and upon that is superimposed a blue gavel. The insignia of the order are the flag, the sleeve patch, lapel pin, and the nametag, all which bear the emblem.

*The Blue Gavel flag shall always be flown with the handle of the gavel **down**.

*The I.O.B.G. sleeve patch shall be worn on the right arm of the yachting blazer.

Attire

*For **Gentlemen** in the **Winter**: (Class A Uniform) Navy Blue Blazer with appropriate insignia and badges of rank; White Shirt; Black/Navy, IOBG, Yacht Club or Yachting Association Tie, Gray Trousers, Gray or Black Socks, Black Shoes.

*For **Gentlemen** in the **Summer**: (Class B) Navy Blue Blazer with appropriate insignia and badges of affiliation and rank; White Shirt; Black/Navy, IOBG, Yacht Club, or Yachting Association Tie; White Trousers, White Socks, White Shoes. Summer Whites (Class C Uniform) involves substituting an appropriate Short Sleeved White Shirt with epaulettes for shoulder boards for the Blue Blazer. Also Note: Shoulder Boards with Rank shall be substituted for Collar brass and should **not** be worn together.

*For **Ladies** in the **Winter**: (Class A Uniform) Navy Blue Blazer with appropriate insignia and badges of affiliation and rank; White Blouse; Black/Navy, IOBG, Yacht Club, or Yachting Association Tie, if worn; Gray Skirt or Slacks; appropriate Hose; Black Shoes.

*For **Ladies** in the **Summer**: (Class B Uniform) Navy Blue Blazer with Appropriate insignia and badges of affiliation and rank; White Blouse, Black, IOBG, Yacht Club, or Yachting Association Tie, if worn;

*White Skirt or Slacks, Appropriate Hose, if worn; White Shoes. Summer Whites (Class C Uniform) involves substituting an appropriate Short Sleeved White Shirt, with Epaulettes for soft shoulder boards for the Blue Blazer.

***For Formal Social Occasions in the Yachting Community** the following is considered acceptable and appropriate. Blue Gavel Patches should match the Jacket or Blazer. The Formal Yachting Uniform is always appropriate. Silver Past Commodores Stars may be worn on the Tuxedo Jacket when it is worn in lieu of The White Dinner Jacket. (Yachting Customs Handbook suggest Miniature Medals or Stars to be appropriate which is defined as 5/8" or smaller to be worn along the top side of the jacket pocket or in the alternate 3/8" may be worn for each side of the shirt collar. (Not Both)

*For **Gentlemen**: White Dinner Jacket; Formal White Shirt; Black/Navy, Yacht Club or Yachting Association pattern Tie and Cumberbund; Black Formal Trousers; Black Socks; Black Shoes. Or Blue Blazer, Formal or Plain White Shirt; Black/Navy, Yacht Club or Yachting Association Tie; and or Cumberbund - **Summer** - White Trousers; White Socks; and White Shoes - **Winter** - Gray Trousers; Black Socks; and Black Shoes.

*For **Ladies**: White Jacket; White Blouse; Black/Navy, Yacht Club or Yachting Association Tie and or Cumberbund, if worn - **Summer** - White Skirt or Slacks; Appropriate Hose; White Shoes - **Winter** - Gray Skirt or Slacks; Appropriate Hose; Black Shoes.

Additional Clarification and Uniform Faux-Pas:

Shoulder Boards and Collar Brass are redundant and should not be worn simultaneous.

Name Badge on Summer Whites shall be worn on the Right Breast of the Shirt.

The U.S. Flag Pin shall be worn on the left breast nearest the heart.

White Belt with White Slacks, Black Belt with Grey Slacks.

Traditional Yachting Cap, Not to be worn indoors.

Uniform Club Patch is to be worn on the Left Breast of the Blazer.

Traditional Yacht Club Uniform is intended to be as Appropriate Yachting Apparel worn uniformly amongst its Members and Officers.

With regards to Insignia, Pins and Decorations, Remember, "Less is More"

Note: The IOBG name and emblem are registered in the U.S. and Canada. They shall not be used, duplicated, reproduced, or modified without the express written approval of the Executive Committee.

Yachting Customs and Courtesies; By Joseph A. Tringali