

COVID Safety and Game Management Recommendations

Pre-game duties

Referees are to arrive at the field wearing a face covering and keep it on until start of game.

Referee should keep face covering in possession during game for use when required, during halftime, and when leaving.

Referees may use electronic whistles. (optional)

Referees may wear PPE gloves throughout the contest. (optional)

Upon arrival one of the referee crew should meet the home school AD and discuss any concerns and “what ifs”.

Note: Home coach is NOT the school AD. Any referee concerns should be addressed as it relates to safety and Covid-19.

Trainers should be identified and readily available for all, but socially distant from team and official technical areas.

Officials' technical area should be at least 10 feet away from both team benches and support personnel.

Schools are being encouraged to have team benches diagonally opposite from each other (per NFHS/FHSAA).

Team technical areas are required to be at least 10 feet from halfway line and may extend to top of penalty area.

Rosters are required and will be presented to the referee and may be added to at any time during the contest.

Coaches/Captains pre-game meeting (required)

NFHS/FHSAA requires head coach and only one team captain from each team to be present.

PPE will be required for referees and coach, and strongly encouraged for each team captain.

Officials will encourage coaches to present ONE team captain.

Social distancing will be practiced. No handshakes or first/elbow bumps shall occur.

One SR will be at touchline and halfway line. CR will be at least 6 feet away from SR along the halfway line nearer the center circle. Coaches will be on the touchline at least 6 feet away from SR. Each Team's captain will be on the field at least six feet away from the CR. (see diagram)



After brief pregame to coaches (COVID *dissent, unsporting, spitting*) and any questions addressed, each coach is required to confirm their *players are legally equipped and will exhibit sporting behavior...* Coaches may stay or tend to their teams for the coin toss.

CR will then conduct the coin toss with the choice of *direction or possession*.

SR2 will meet with the Ball Handlers (minimum 2), instruct them of their duties required them to wear masks and gloves. Home team should provide game balls that have been sanitized and kept separate from other training equipment.

During the game

All referees should avoid handling the balls at any time.

All Referees should be aware at all times of their position on the field in relationship to players, again, social distance at all times.

SR1/SR2 should always maintain their social distance from each of the teams. Coaches are not permitted to interfere or approach SR during live play. (Unsporting Conduct)

All coaches/bench personnel and substitute players must wear masks while on the bench. (Dissent)

Misconduct considerations:

Unsporting Conduct - Players getting in one another's face to argue should be shown a yellow card.

Dissent - Any discussion with the referee by player or coach who fails to maintain social distance should be shown a yellow card. When possible and safe, it is recommended that the referee extend an arm with their palm facing the approaching person and taking a step back to increase the distance.

"Spitting" - Any player guilty of intentionally sneezing, snotting, coughing, or wiping any bodily fluid on any person will be ejected and shown a **red card**.

After game

Maintain social distance with players, coaches, team officials, and most of all, fans (parents).

Put your face covering on after the final whistle, collect your kits, and leave. Wave or nod to teams, but do not shake hands or otherwise touch any one. Once at your car, it is recommended that the official removes their jersey and put it in a plastic bag, then use isopropyl alcohol or another hand disinfectant to clean their hands, whistle, face, ...