

CSOA REFEREE CORONAVIRUS PROTECTION PROTOCOLS FALL 2021

Updated as of 8/24/2021

As of the date above this protocol will be used by all officials refereeing for CSOA until it is updated or until further notice. These protocols are designed to mitigate the spread of infection, but they cannot eliminate the risk associated with COVID-19. Officials must also be aware of other protocols that may be in place from the State of Virginia, the Virginia High School League, various county health departments or the individual school(s). CSOA will maintain a file of these on the CSOA website and officials are expected to access and review them prior to officiating their match. As a rule, follow the CSOA protocol however “be prepared” to implement any additional protocols that the schools may have put in place. They may be more stringent.

CSOA believes that our individual social responsibility, is to the collective safety of our community, which requires each of us to accept personal accountability to continuously maintain an active role practicing basic health and safety measures.

For more specific information, if you are interested, you can use the following link to drill down to the various jurisdictions that we operate in. [Link from CDC to Local Health Departments](#) (Use CTRL + mouse click to open) for more information.

PRIOR TO GAME DAY

1. The day before your first game assignment each official should use the [Coronavirus Self-Checker | CDC](#) to get an overall assessment of your COVID-19 health. Note: Even if conditions do not change and for peace of mind periodic checks are recommended.

Officials are required to contact the Commissioner/President **as soon as possible** if you:

- Have had a positive test for COVID-19 within the past 10 days.
- Have had close contact in the past 14 days with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19;
- Have a fever (100.4°F or higher);
- Are experiencing any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition:
 - A new cough.
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
 - Chills.
 - Sore throat.
 - Muscle aches that are not attributable to physical exercise, or
 - A loss of taste or smell.

Please Note: If you do not have any of the above symptoms you may proceed to your game the following day.

2. As always, officials shall contact their partners to confirm date, time and location of the game. Contact your crew no later than 24 hours before each scheduled game.

GAME DAY

Arrival at field & preparations

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- Referees who are not vaccinated will wear masks upon leaving their vehicle, proceeding into the venue right up until the start of the match. *NOTE: At the present time The Langley School in McLean, VA is requiring **all personnel on campus to be masked except when actively engaged in active play.***
 - Officials are required to participate in any and all required school health screening and temperature checks. Schools will likely use a no-touch thermometer on your forehead and possibly a QR code that you will scan with your phone to complete a personal health screening questionnaire. At some sites you may need to complete a written questionnaire. NOTE: If you fail the temperature check on-site, without an argument you will leave the site and immediately contact the Assignor.
 - Officials must bring their own water bottle, hand sanitizer and face covering.
 - The referee crew will maintain required social distancing 6 ft for interaction with other referees, coaches, site administrator, trainers, players, timekeepers and for possible interaction with spectators.

Pregame coin toss: At present the coin toss can be conducted with the team captains and head coaches. Safe distancing should be maintained and masks, **except for non-vaccinated personnel, are optional.**

- All required statements regarding sportsmanship must be conveyed.
- Handshakes, fist bumps, and physical contact should be avoided.

Pregame Ceremony – Player introductions and playing of the National Anthem

- To avoid the possibility of physical contact or inability to maintain social distancing from the players referees can opt to not be present on the pitch while these activities take place.

During the match

- **At the present time referees are not required to wear their masks during active play but they should have masks readily available, i.e. on their person for possible interaction with coaches, players, site personnel. Same for the AR's in the match. Any official may choose to wear a mask if they so desire.**
- AR's will bring and use their own flags for the match.
- Use of comm equipment is at the crew's discretion but will have to be a unanimous decision. CSOA cautions against its use due to possible sanitizing issues and the fact that equipment may well be shared match to match.
- Before the start of the match, the referee crew will coordinate with the Head coaches about whether or not there will be a hydration break. If the consensus decision is that breaks will be used then proceed as follows: At the halfway point in each period (15-17:30 mins for JV and 20:00 mins for Varsity) at an appropriate stoppage or if one doesn't materialize, the referee will whistle for play to stop and the players will be directed to go to their bench area for hydration. **Note: The clock will be stopped during any hydration break.**
- Referees are not required or expected to be "Mask Police". Requirement for the use of masks by players and coaches is the school admin/ coach's responsibility. If there is a mask policy logically you can point out a problem and ask that they take care of it. Should the issue continue then you should communicate with the head coach and the host school

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administrator. Again, referees are not to enforce mask protocols. Include appropriate comments in your game report.

- During stoppages on the field when players and referees interact (e.g., card, question), referees will maintain appropriate distances. Do not allow players to advance inside of six feet.
- When going to the bench area to report the reason for a caution (required action) safe distancing will be practiced. If masks are not being worn in active play you may put one on to approach the bench.

Halftime

- Referees should practice safe distancing amongst themselves when off the field.

Conclusion of match

- Per CSOA policy at the final whistle the crew should exit the field as quickly as possible avoiding as much contact with others to retrieve their gear and depart.
- Referees who **are not vaccinated** will don their masks when play has ended and when heading off the field. Referees should leave the venue going straight to their vehicles as soon as possible.