

CSOA REFEREE CORONAVIRUS PROTECTION PROTOCOLS SPRING 2021
As of 2/25/2021

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.

Officials should visit [Considerations for Youth Sports | CDC](#) 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:

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

- Referees should not travel to the game site with their partners.
- Referees will wear masks upon leaving their vehicle, proceeding into the venue right up until the start of the match. THIS MAY CHANGE to “WEAR MASKS ALL THE TIME”.

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- Officials are required to participate in any and all required school health screening and temperature checks. Most schools will use a no-touch forehead thermometer and 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 -10 ft for interaction with other referees, coaches, site administrator, trainers, players, timekeepers and for possible interaction with spectators.

Pregame coin toss: To be conducted by the Head Referee at the center circle.

- Only the head coaches will be present. All participants are required to wear a mask with all participants practicing safe distancing.
- Conduct the coin toss between the Head Coaches.
- All required statements regarding sportsmanship can still be effectively conveyed.
- Handshakes, fist bumps, and physical contact must be avoided.

During the match

- Whether or not referees will wear their masks during active play in a VHSL match is still to be determined as of this date. Same for AR's if used in the match.
- AR's if used, 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.
- 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 and hand sanitizing. Balls are supposed to be sanitized as well.
- Referees are not required or expected to be "Mask Police". This is the school admin/coach's responsibility. Logically you can point out a problem to a player and ask that they take care of. Should the player continue to have difficulties following this protocol, then you may communicate with the head coach. If the head coach is not cooperative, then your next and final level of escalation is to speak to the host school administrator. Again, referees are not to enforce player mask protocols and there is "no penalty" involved.
- 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 must put it on to approach the bench.

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Halftime

- If referees are not required to wear masks during active play they should have masks readily available, i.e. on their person for possible interaction with coaches, players, site personnel.
- Referees should practice safe distancing amongst themselves when off the field.

Conclusion of match

- Per CSOA/VHSL 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.
- If referees are not required to wear masks during active play then when heading off the field they will don masks to leave the venue going straight to their vehicles.

What to expect from and at the school – School Responsibilities

In accordance with VHSL guidelines, schools will be responsible for the following protocols. While officials are not the “safety” police, should you encounter any concerns, the Head referee should discuss with the host school administrator and inform the Commissioner after the game.

- **Sanitization and Cleaning.** VHSL has published strict requirements for cleaning and sanitizing all spaces that will be used by all personnel involved in sporting events.
- **Team Benches.** Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions for schools.
 - o Limit the number of bench personnel to observe distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - o Additional benches will be added to allow bench personnel to observe distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - o Limit contact between players when substituting.
- **Scorer’s Table if used.**
 - o The host should sanitize the table before the game and at halftime.
 - o Place table away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
 - o Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes scorers and timers with a recommended distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals.
- **Equipment and Accessories.**
 - o A sanitized ball is given to officials prior to the game that was not used during warm-ups.
 - o Host school should sanitize the ball during time-outs and at the mid-period stoppage (multiple balls may be used).
 - o Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
- **Spectators. It is not clear at this time if spectators will be allowed. You should have little to no contact with any spectator/fan.**
 - o Participants are not included as spectators. Participants include players, coaches, officials, staff necessary for the game, medical personnel, media and security/law enforcement.
- **Face Coverings.**
 - o **Athletes** are required to wear face coverings at all times, including while actively engaged in competition.
 - o **Coaches, bench personnel** (including players not in the game), **fans, and event staff,** are required to wear face coverings at all times.