



NORTH CAROLINA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION



NCSRA COVID19 GUIDELINES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020



- ▶ COVID19 Considerations
- ▶ Travel to Games separately
- ▶ Wear a mask at all times when not actively officiating
- ▶ Maintain social distancing as much as possible throughout all activities, including on field interaction such as card situations.
- ▶ Bring your own water and do not share
- ▶ Insure and insist that bench areas and spectators remain at least 8 feet off the touch line to give ARs a social distance safe zone.

PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS

- ▶ RETURN TO REFEREE SAFELY
 - ▶ Interaction with players & coaches:
 - ▶ 1. NO MORE HANDSHAKES, NONE
 - ▶ 2. Introduction with coaches, verbal greeting with eye contact only
 - ▶ 3. Checking players in, roster check, line up the players. If you are working age group that requires cards or virtual IDs. Have the team manager hold the cards or phone and confirm players registration
 - ▶ 4. Coin toss – no handshakes, 1 captain per team, everyone 6 ft apart
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- ▶ 5. At the end of the match, do not expect the younger players to line up and go through the ceremonial hi-fives. It's not going to happen. Do not expect the older age groups to shake hands afterwards. Get used to a verbal, "good game" acknowledgement between the teams.
- ▶ 6. If a coach wants to have a conversation or share a quick point with you after the match (if it's respectful), maintain a minimum of a 6 ft distance
- ▶ 7. When coaches or players want to share their gratitude to you – AWESOME! NO SHAKING HANDS, maintain a minimum of 6 ft distance
- ▶ 8. Injured players do not allow teammates to huddle around, within a 6 ft distance, do a quick assessment (see if the injured players wants/needs their coach), if so, get the coach out there. As always, back away once the coach has arrived.

- ▶ We can professionally and respectfully communicate verbally with appropriate tones, body language and eye contact. The removal of the traditional handshake is EXPECTED during this time at every level of the game.
 - ▶ Physical contact should be minimized as much as possible
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- ▶ Interaction with referee crew members:
- ▶ 1. NO MORE HANDSHAKES, NONE
- ▶ 2. Verbally reaffirm when someone does a nice job
- ▶ 3. For your pregame or at halftime, when communicating with your crew – maintain a minimum of 6 ft in distance. USE ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION when others are around and keep in mind your volume and tone.
- ▶ 4. Use your own flag when working a game as an assistant referee. It does not matter if the flags do not match.
- ▶ 5. Exit and entering the field as a team of 3, keep your distance – 6 ft apart please. Set the example from the beginning to the end of the match to all involved with the game.

- ▶ Additional Referee gear:
- ▶ 1. If it will make you feel better to wear a mask (preferable black but not necessary), please do so.
- ▶ 2. Hand sanitizer should have been a staple in everyone's referee bag the moment you became a referee. Carry a travel size bottle of hand sanitizer in your bag and use it.
- ▶ 3. If it will make you feel better to wear gloves, go ahead. Remember not to touch your face and to continue to use hand sanitizer in between games.
- ▶ 4. Make sure to bring your own water bottles and label them with your name. Keep them in your bag. When in doubt if it is your water – get a new one.

- ▶ In between games protocol:
- ▶ 1. Stay 6 ft apart. If the area does not allow for it because of tight quarters, expand the referee area. Bring a chair, return to your car.

- ▶ Check either NCYSA or NCASA websites for the latest updates from these associations for COVID19 protocols.
 - ▶ RETURN TO PLAY WILL ONLY OCCUR WHEN THE GOVERNOR'S ORDERS PERMIT IT. NO EXCEPTION.
 - ▶ You are not covered by insurance if you are officiating in violation of state legal requirements and your actions are not sanctioned by NCSRA or USSF.
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- ▶ The operative word at the moment for all things refereeing is FLEXIBILITY as the landscape is rapidly changing.

FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTATION!!!

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