



Area 1D Referee COVID-19 Protocols

- (1) Referees are to wear protective masks at all times when arriving at the field (departing their vehicle), before kick-off, during half-time and following the game (until seated in their vehicle). In other words, except when hydrating and as described below.
- (2) ALL referees must wear masks, even during play. However, if wearing a mask is causing breathing difficulties, they may lower it below their chin, but raise it up again prior to engaging in a conversation with someone who is less than 6 feet away. [Note: All Players are to be wearing a mask during play - see (12) below for guidance.]
- (3) Referees may use a suitably loud electronic whistle (as opposed to lifting the mask to blow the whistle).
- (4) If possible, spectators should be asked to not sit directly behind the Assistant Referee (i.e., they can sit on the other half of the field); or at least 6 feet from the AR's running line.
- (5) Assistant Referees must wear a face mask at all times, except when hydrating.
- (6) Referees and Assistant Referees must use their own equipment, i.e., no sharing. This mainly refers to AR flags. It is acceptable if the two AR's flag styles do not match.
- (7) The Referee will make every attempt to blow his/her whistle away from the players.
- (8) The Referee, both Assistant Referees and team captains will wear face masks during the coin toss.
- (9) The coin toss will only be handled by the Referee.
- (10) There is to be no handshaking or fist-bumps before, during or after the match. Instead, other forms of sportsmanship and courtesy are to be used, e.g., bowing, hand-on-heart, praying hands, etc.
- (11) The referee team is strongly encouraged to use hand sanitizer before the game, during half-time and after the game.
- (12) The referee team is *not* responsible for enforcing the face mask protocol with the players, coaches and substitutes on each team's bench. However, the referee team is to solicit the assistance of the Coaches (or Field Monitor, if present) to enforce the mask rule. This applies to the mask rule for spectators, too.
 - (a) Should a Referee feel that failure to adhere to the mask rule by a coach, players, substitutes or spectators may cause a safety hazard, the Referee should first suspend the match and instruct the Coach (or Field Monitor, if present) of his/her safety concerns. If the situation is resolved, play continues. If, however, the situation is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Referee, the Referee may terminate the match. In this case, the Referee must complete and submit to the Area Referee Administrator and Area Director a very detailed Referee Report within 24 hours. Terminating a match must only be considered in extreme conditions.
- (13) A Referee or Assistant Referee who does not comply with these protocols may not officiate the game and may not be assigned games in the future.
- (14) The referee team will make every reasonable attempt to stay at least 6 feet from each other, the coaches and players.
- (15) Players exhibiting frequent sneezing or coughing will be asked to leave the field, and may only return when it has been determined by the coach and Referee that it is safe to do so.
- (16) A Player who overtly and willfully coughs on another Player or a referee will be Sent Off (similar to Spitting).

Note: Official guidance/rules on the requirement for players and coaches to *always* be wearing a mask, even during active play, have not (as of this publication) been settled. As such, it is possible that there may be different mask rules per city, school district and/or field location. In other words, be flexible and accommodate the requirements of a particular field.