

COVID-19 Measures for SCMSOA Referees

Referees must follow prescribed measures to protect themselves and others. *Officials are not responsible for enforcing social distancing on the part of players, coaches, and spectators.* However, the Minnesota State High School League expects referees to observe these COVID-19 mitigation measures:

1. Before the game
 - a. Wear a face mask.
 - b. Inspect the field and players' equipment from a minimum distance of 6 feet.
 - c. Sanitize your hands after inspecting game balls.
 - d. Maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other members of the officiating crew during the pregame conference.
 - e. Maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet during the pregame meeting and coin toss.
 - Conduct this meeting away from the bench areas and scorer's table.
 - Only one official, the head coaches of both teams, and one captain for each team should participate.
 - All participants should wear masks.
 - f. No handshakes, high-fives, etc.
 - g. Ball holders must be 7th grade or older.
 - h. If the forecast indicates inclement weather, discuss options with the site manager.
2. During the game
 - a. Masks and gloves are optional during play.
 - b. Carry a mask in your pocket and wear it when talking with players and coaches.
 - c. Use only your own equipment and supplies, including AR flags, drinking water, sunscreen, etc. It's OK if the AR's flags don't match.
 - d. No substitutions prior to corner kicks (minimize crowding in the penalty areas).
 - e. Teams should return to their bench areas during prolonged stoppages. Players may leave the field during water breaks.
 - f. Mercy rule: the clock does not stop if either team has a lead of 5 or more goals.
 - g. No overtime after regular season matches.
 - h. Be prepared to take action if social distancing cannot be maintained during inclement weather.
3. After the game
 - a. Wear a mask.
 - b. No handshakes, high-fives, etc.
 - c. Leave the venue as quickly as possible.
 - d. Conduct any postgame debriefing by phone or at a location that permits social distancing.

See the full MSHSL guidance at this link:

<https://www.mshsl.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/mshsl-soccer-guidance-and-information.pdf>