



## Referee Return to Play Responsibilities & Guidelines

South Carolina State Referee Committee

Revised: August 12, 2020

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These responsibilities and guidelines have been promulgated by the SC State Referee Committee with the intention of adhering to the following guiding principles:

1. Respect for the autonomy of every match official regarding their personal health concerns. No match official should feel pressured to accept any assignment if they believe that doing so puts themselves at undue risk.
2. Adherence to all applicable regulations, guidelines or best practices promulgated by federal, state and local government and health entities, the U.S. Soccer Federation, the SCYSA (in deference to their national governing bodies), and to the requirements or restrictions of the facility/venue at which each game is played. When in conflict, the most restrictive of any of these guidelines must be adhered to. If, for example, a facility / venue imposes a lower cap on the number of spectators than does the state government, then that lower cap must be honored.
3. Participant awareness of potential exposures to the novel coronavirus or other communicable diseases balanced with confidentiality with regards to the personal health information of any particular individual.
4. Acknowledgement of an evolving environment of risk. If you believe that these guidelines do not represent prudent measures to address the risks of COVID-19 or other, communicable diseases, please share your concerns with the State Referee Committee by contacting Kenneth Ayers, the State Referee Administrator, at [KAyers@gocitywide.com](mailto:KAyers@gocitywide.com) or Joe Balazs, the State Youth Referee Administrator, at [referees@SCYSA.org](mailto:referees@SCYSA.org).



#### MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- If your responses to any of the 6 questions below is yes then you should decline or turn back assignments.
  1. Do you have a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  2. Have you been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
  3. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
  4. Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours?
  5. Have you recently lost your sense of taste or smell?
  6. Is your temperature 100.4 or higher today?
- Adhere to these guidelines, as well as state and local health department regulations, and to requirements of the facility / venue to reduce the spread of viruses.
- Notify your assignor(s) for both recent and future assignments as appropriate in the event you are quarantined for observation, are awaiting a pending test result, test positive or are otherwise diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The referee crew is responsible for enforcing the Laws of the Game and observing their personal COVID protocol. There is no responsibility for enforcing any deviations from COVID protocol by spectators, players, or coaches off the field unless that affects any member of the referee team. If, in your reasonable assessment of the situation, any spectator(s)/team official(s)/player(s) are being belligerent or unsafe from the standpoint of COVID safety practices then stop the game and ask the coach for their assistance. If this fails to correct that behavior when requested, you may consider abandoning the match. Immediately report the details of such a situation to your assignor who will report them to the appropriate league representatives and write a report.

#### ASSIGNOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be sensitive, respectful and accommodating to match officials (and the parents of youth match officials) who may be uncomfortable with returning to play at this time.
- Create and distribute these and other relevant responsibilities and guidelines to all match officials, instructors, assessors, mentors and referee coaches working the competition.
- Have an effective communication and action plan in place and identify strategies for working with public health officials to notify match officials (and the families of youth officials) if the assignor learns that a participant has developed COVID-19 and may have been infectious to others, while maintaining that participant's confidentiality.

BEHAVING TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF VIRUSES	Match Official
Wash with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before and after games and during halftime.	X
Do not share food, drinks, towels (or other personal hygiene items), whistles, flags, referee uniform items or other equipment. Note: the assistant referees' flags do not need to match each other in appearance if each match official prefers to use their own flag.	X
Wash uniform and sanitize other equipment after each match day.	X
Provide for space and maintain appropriate social distancing in referee tent or room.	X
Match officials should avoid participating in handshakes, high-fives, fist bumps, or other contact among participants before or after the match. Note: Match officials are not responsible for policing such behavior of players or team officials.	X
Match officials should avoid handling player cards or rosters. Ask the coach / manager to help in checking in players. Referee or AR should keep substitution notes in the book for matches with limited subs.	
Follow local, state, and federal guidelines. Recommend to maintain appropriate social distancing and wear a face mask when approaching and departing from the field as well as during the pre-game field, player and roster inspections, the pre-game conference among match officials, preliminary activities with team captains, and after the game. Familiarize yourself with SCYSA and USSoccer 'Play on Policies.' Websites SCYSA.org and SCReferees.com. Local COVID protocols and scdhec.gov.	X
Consider not doing the pre-game team captain meeting. Let the home team choose ball or direction.	X
Do not call a player over to arms distance to show a card. Use your voice/whistle not your hands to set a wall. Social distance as much as possible.	X
Disinfect non-washable, personal equipment like shoes, whistles, flags, etc. after every match.	X
Promptly leave after matches.	X
Bring your own water bottle; do not share.	X
Avoid carpooling with others who are not in your immediate family.	X
Shower immediately upon returning home.	X
Bring and use hand sanitizer to every game.	X
Consider changing jerseys between games when feasible. At the grassroots competition level, match officials are empowered to adopt this practice even if it results in members of a crew wearing different jersey colors.	X
Bring a separate bag in which to place used uniform items or other equipment to keep them apart from unused items.	X
Match officials may, but are not required, to wear face masks and/or use electronic whistles during the match.	X

CREATING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT	Match Official
<p>If your responses to any of the 6 questions below is yes then you should decline or turn back assignments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you have a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?</li> <li>2. Have you been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?</li> <li>3. Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?</li> <li>4. Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours?</li> <li>5. Have you recently lost your sense of taste or smell?</li> <li>6. Is your temperature 100.4 or higher today?</li> </ol>	X
<p>Referees are not responsible for the enforcement of return to play guidelines and responsibilities of players, team officials (coaches), or spectators at a match. If the referee team feels threatened in any way follow the standard procedures, then stop the game and ask the coach for their help. If the behavior is NOT corrected, you may consider abandoning the match. Immediately report the details of such a situation to your assignor who will report them to the appropriate league representatives and write a report.</p>	X

UTILIZING HEALTHY OPERATIONS	Match Official	Assignor
<p>Assure match officials that they are not obligated or pressured to accept assignments. Do not base future assignments on a match official's willingness to accept assignments during this pandemic.</p>		X
<p>Publish a notice to all match officials (and parents of youth match officials) players, outlining the risks of returning and detailing how the competition intends to minimize or eradicate those risks.</p>		X
<p>All state and local health guidelines and protocols must be followed, as must any guidelines and protocols required by the facility or venue IF they are MORE restrictive than those of the state and local health department.</p>	X	X
<p>Consider assigning match officials together as cohesive crews for multiple games in the same day to reduce interaction with other match officials.</p>		X
RESPONDING TO ILLNESS	Match Official	Assignor
<p>Notify your assignor for all potentially affected upcoming assignments if you are awaiting a pending COVID-19 test result or are quarantined for observation. Do not accept future assignments until you are cleared by an appropriate health care professional.</p>	X	
<p>Notify all assignors for all recent assignments per the guidance of your local health department if you test positive for or are diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>	X	