

**2021 Football Game Day Protocol for Officials**

CIF-SS recommends that the Referee contact (via email and/or phone call) the school by Wednesday and in asking about facilities, parking, contacts at the school, etc. ask the school’s Athletic Director at that time if the officials are mandated by that school to sign any type of a waiver – If the answer is yes, then politely tell the school that you will decline the offer to officiate their contest. Reinforce safety expectations surrounding pre-game, administration, sidelines, Players and Coaches behavior. Verify that all Players and Coaches have been tested and have tested negative.

If an Official that is assigned to the upcoming game is not feeling well **immediately notify** the White Hat and Paul Caldera. **DO NOT OFFICIATE THE GAME**.

Our Officials safety is our number one priority and at any time leading up to the game or during the contest you feel unsafe inform your White Hat immediately.

* All Officials arrive at the school in uniform and “masked up” ready to officiate
* Masks can be standard surgical mask, shield or solid in color cloth type mask or gator, preferably solid black. May have small manufacturer’s logo or OCFOA logo.
* Meet up with Crew at least 1 hour before kickoff at a defined location to start pre-game preparation – this could be in the parking lot, in a Coaches office if allowed by the school, in another building (maintenance shed by field) or a location at the end of the field with chairs
* Stay together as a Crew, but maintain social distancing when entering the stadium
* Bring your own water bottles and snacks
* Stay masked up and follow social distancing during pre-game preparation
* Per CIF, the Chain crew members are required to be “masked up” at all times
* Per CIF, Players and Coaches are required to be “masked up” when on the sideline and not playing. Players do not have to wear a mask when playing.
* If a Coach refuses to be “masked up” stop the game and get the Administration to handle the situation
* Only one captain from each team for the coin toss and maintain social distancing with Referee and Umpire at center field
* No handshakes
* CIF has stated that players only, if necessary, can occupy the team box between the 10 yard lines staying at least 6 feet back.
* Following recommendations:
  + **Restricted area must be clear during live ball for the safety of our Officials and the Chain Crew.** This should be reinforced during pre-game with Coaches.
  + Do not hesitate to throw sideline warnings if Coaches or Players are creeping in to the restricted area
  + During dead ball Coaches and Players should be “masked up”
  + **Coaches 6 feet back from Officials and/or chain crew**
  + **Players 6 feet back from Coaches**
  + Officials are **not** responsible for monitoring the sidelines for face masks, social distancing, water sharing, etc.. this is the responsibility of the coaches and the administration
* CIF has stated 3 ball rotation to sanitize the footballs – If any Official is concerned about touching the football they are allowed to wear gloves that **do not** restrict their ability to throw or catch the football ball. If an Official feels a football should be rotated out for any reason, do so immediately. Recommend encouraging players to retrieve the ball and bring the football in to Umpire minimizing touches.
* During the game ensure we are “masked up” when talking to Coaches, Players, Administration, Chain Crew or other Officials.
* Masks can be down during pre-snap routine when ready for snap or during live play when distancing from Players, Coaches and others.
* Use regular whistles. Inform Coaches that whistles could be slow due to pulling down masks. Electronic whistles are allowed, but please make your White Hat aware if you are using one.
* For halftime work with game Administration on a defined location to sit – Five chairs set at one end of the field as an example.
* Complete the game, grab personal items and immediately leave to the parking lot as a Crew.

**The CIF-SS asks that officials use Common Sense in enforcement of these (and all) Football Guidelines/Covid-19 Modifications**

**Additional Resources:**

[**COVID-19 Resources - California Interscholastic Federation (cifstate.org)**](https://www.cifstate.org/covid-19/index)

[**Your Guide to Masks | CDC**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html)

[**California Interscholastic Federation (cifstate.org)**](https://www.cifstate.org/covid-19/Resources/RTP_Combined.pdf)

[**Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports (ca.gov)**](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx)

[**nfhs-smac-statement-on-risk-of-covid-19-during-high-school-sports-january-27-2021-final.pdf**](https://www.nfhs.org/media/4295118/nfhs-smac-statement-on-risk-of-covid-19-during-high-school-sports-january-27-2021-final.pdf)

[**COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports (aap.org)**](https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/)