



EDP Soccer League 2021 COVID-19 Referee Protocol Operations

Please utilize the following EDP Soccer procedures, protocols, and guidance for EDP League referee operations:

- Remember, Referees must always follow social distancing guidelines when on and off the field.
- Referees are required to always wear face coverings when not on the field.
- Anyone with COVID symptoms must NOT work.
- While masks are not recommended during periods of athletic activity, Referees and/or ARs are permitted to wear masks during the game if they so choose. (Just as every adult should check with their doctor before a new strenuous activity, so too should Referees check before wearing a mask while exercising).
- Deliberate physical contact of any kind is prohibited (i.e. no handshakes, 'high fives', etc.)
- Absolutely no physical contact with players.
- Referees must cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing - recommended into the nape of the elbow.
- No spitting will be allowed on the field, sidelines, or anywhere on the event premise. If you are a regular 'spitter' by nature, carry a handkerchief in your pocket and very discretely spit in your hankie and pocket your treasure.
- Referees should bring and use all their own equipment (cards, whistles, flags). Electronic whistles rather than traditional whistles can be used. Referees should regularly disinfect their traditional whistles (this is a good idea always anyway!) It is OK if AR flags do not match. Bring hand sanitizer and use it before and after each period of play. Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
- Handle the ball as little as possible.
- Referees should enter the field away from participants and each other and follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible on and off the field. We prefer to see referees set up their area behind one of the goal lines away from the teams as well as others when possible.
- Remember, referees are not asked to control physical distancing measures in the technical areas, along the spectators' sidelines or anywhere OFF the field during the game. Referees have enough to do within the game itself. If there are legitimate issues occurring off the field that are interfering with play, temporarily suspend the game and ask for the coaches' assistance. This is the same action Referees should be taking with any off-the field issue.
- In short, use common sense when dealing with players and coaches. Remember to LIMIT CONTACT in all instances. Remember, we must always follow social distancing guidelines when we are on and off the field.
- Referees that accept EDP League assignments agree to follow the EDP League COVID-19 Referee Procedures.

Check-In Procedures

- Player Pass Check-In is *REQUIRED* for all EDP League games. *All players, coaches, and referees must wear a mask during the check-in process.
- Coaches will submit a Game Card and Printed Roster which the referee will NOT return to the coach. It is suggested that referees use gloves when handling any paperwork.
- Coaches will distribute the passes to each player who will then hold it as the referee checks each one (following social distancing guidelines and all wearing masks) to verify each player via photo on the pass. Referees may ask any player to unmask briefly to verify identity.
- Coaches will hold player passes during the game. Referees will perform a safety equipment check of players while maintaining proper social distancing.
- The only exception to this will be the states that utilize electronic passes such as Eastern NY, Eastern PA and Maryland. In these states the roster will have the player photos on it and the coach will submit that to the referee to verify the players (again, maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask). EDP will also accept electronic passes from New Jersey teams.
- The coin toss should be conducted with only one participant from each team and one referee, separated according to social distance guidelines. Pick up your own flip coin or simply catch it.

During the Game

- In the event of misconduct on the field, the referee will show cards while following social distancing guidelines. Play will be suspended by the referee until the referee can confirm the player identification with the coach.
- In the event of a mass confrontation during a game, allow coaches onto the field if they can help assist. Eliminate contact with players during this situation. Think “triangle of control” immediately.

Post-Game

- Referees MUST submit scores within 24 hours of game. The QR code on the game card is the fastest and easiest method for score reporting.
- In the event of a serious injury where player does not return to the game, after the game make sure to identify the player with the coach/manager so that proper injury report can be filed.
- When Referees’ game(s) are done for the day, go directly home, shower and change clothes. All should launder clothing and uniforms after referee activities.
- Stay safe, stay healthy and remember the spirit of the game.

VERY IMPORTANT: Your State Youth Soccer Association rules precede EDP League Referee Procedures and MUST be followed. For example, your state may require an indirect free kick restart from the touchline where the ball went out of play for what would normally be a throw-in, you must follow your State Youth Soccer Association rules.

Many State Youth Soccer Associations have modifications for throw-ins, drop balls, deliberate heading, slide tackles, corner kicks, coin toss, etc. due to COVID-19 return to play guidelines. You must follow your State Youth Soccer Association rules.

Referees must also adhere to local state, county, township or even facility requirements where applicable.

**County, township and facility requirements will prevail over state guidelines if they differ.*