



## Area 1D Referee COVID-19 Protocols

- (1) For compliance with LA County's current [Health Order](#), all Referees, Assistant Referees and Coaches must either be vaccinated or have received a negative COVID-19 test within the week just before the game(s). Adherence to this requirement is being managed by each region through a "compliance officer", so check with your region's compliance officer, Regional Referee Administrator or Regional Commissioner to ensure that you have been authorized to referee before accepting and/or refereeing an AYSO game.
- (2) Mask wearing by referees (Referee and Assistant Referees) during active play is *optional* at the referee's personal discretion. If a Referee chooses to wear a mask, he/she may use a suitably loud electronic whistle (as opposed to lifting the mask to blow the whistle).
- (3) 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.
- (4) It is recommended that Referees and Assistant Referees 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.
- (5) The Referee will make every attempt to blow his/her whistle away from the players.
- (6) The coin toss will only be handled by the Referee.
- (7) It is recommended that there 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., clapping, bowing, hand-on-heart, praying hands, etc.
- (8) The referee team is encouraged to use hand sanitizer before the game, during half-time and after the game.
- (9) The referee team is *not* responsible for enforcing face mask protocols, if any, 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 mask rules.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The referee team will attempt to stay at least 6 feet from each other, the coaches and players, when reasonable.
- (12) 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.
- (13) A Player who overtly and willfully coughs on another Player or a referee will be Sent Off (similar to Spitting).

**Note:** It is possible that there may be different mask rules per region, city, school district and/or field location. In other words, be flexible and accommodate the requirements of a particular field.